

AMMAN (AP) — A group of Israeli militants gatecrashed a wedding in a Jordanian capital, causing a riot and the death of a Jordanian. The Israeli militants, who were on a tour of the city, were seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday. They were seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday. They were seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday.

Filipino diplomat loses job after being manhandled

MANILA (AP) — A Filipino diplomat in Amman has been manhandled by a group of Israeli militants. The diplomat, who was on a tour of the city, was seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday. He was seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday.

Teacher rapped for trampling Christ image

JERUSALEM (AP) — A teacher in a Jordanian school has been rapped for trampling a Christ image. The teacher, who was on a tour of the city, was seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday. He was seen in the streets of Amman on Wednesday.

### Islamic Jihad forms 'suicide squad'

BEIRUT (AP) — An Islamic militant group has formed a 70-member suicide squad to carry out attacks against Israeli troops in Palestinian self-rule areas, an official for the group said in remarks published Friday. "Attacks will continue in the autonomous zones" of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Fathi Shakkai, an official for the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, told the Saudi daily Al Hayat in Damascus. Mr. Shakkai linked "an end to armed action in Gaza to the dismantling of Israeli settlements so that we feel a real Palestinian authority. "If this condition is fulfilled, our suicide action will move to other areas. The Jihad does not want to poison relations with the Palestinian Authority, they don't want to and we don't either." Last week the Jihad claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli soldiers near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

## 13 killed, 200 wounded in PNA-Hamas clash in Gaza

### Violent confrontation fuels fears of Palestinian civil war

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police opened fire Friday on thousands of worshippers outside a mosque and clashed with rock-throwing Islamic militants in running street battles. At least 13 people were killed and more than 200 wounded. Friday's clashes were the most serious between Islamic

militants and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) since autonomy was established last May. Scores of people were wounded in street fighting that followed the mosque clash at 12:20 p.m. and clashes erupted throughout the day, the sound of gunfire faded after nightfall. Police rounded up about 300 Islamic militants. Police fired on angry, stone-throwing crowd outside police headquarters, Gaza's central prison and thousands of demonstrators also gathered outside police headquarters in Gaza City and threw stones, some accusing the PNA of serving Israeli

interests. "Collaborators, collaborators," they shouted. Islamic militants fired on police outside a hospital and burned a police van. The bloodiest episode under Palestinian self-rule erupted when, for the first time, Gaza police opened fire at stone throwers outside the city's main mosque after noon prayers. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas had planned a demonstration at the mosque, a centre of resistance to autonomy, but security forces had surrounded the area. It was only after darkness



Hamas supporters throw stones at Palestinian policemen during clashes in Gaza City on Friday (AFP photo)

### Shaath: PNA cannot disarm opposition

MINISTER OF International Cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Nabil Shaath said Thursday the PNA cannot disarm Islamic groups in Palestine and refuses to be a "tool in the hands of Israel" to strike at all Islamic opposition groups.

In a press conference held in Cairo, Dr. Shaath said "due to Israel's failure to respect the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, we do not enjoy any public support to disarm the opposition groups or take tough measures against them." He added that the Palestinian Authority will not enter into a civil war with its people and will not accept to be the "blackman who implements the desires of his white master." Dr. Shaath added that the Palestinian authority respects its security agreements with Israel and will not embark on any violent actions against it.



Palestinian riot police forces stand guard and supporters of Islamic movements (AFP photo) blocking a street in Gaza on Friday following heavy clashes between Palestinian policemen

## Israeli team leaves after talks on diplomatic, economic ties

### Formal relations to be announced on Nov. 27

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

peace talks Mohammad Shahriri.

from sources in the north.

AMMAN — An Israeli delegation left Amman on Friday after talks with Jordanian officials that produced an agreement that the two countries would announce the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 27 and open embassies in each other's capitals on Dec. 10. As the talks were being held, an Israeli team scouted through several areas of Amman, including the Abdoun area, ostensibly looking for a site to locate an Israeli embassy.

Nissim Ben Shitreet, an administrative director of the Israeli foreign ministry, led the team, which included Israeli journalists. The local media were excluded from the tour. The formal meetings, held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Thursday morning and at the Foreign Ministry in the afternoon, were the first official discussions between the two countries on the broader issues of formal relations and trade and economic cooperation in implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Talal Al Hassan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the Israeli delegation for a brief round of talks before a meeting attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nayer Hadid, Major-General Ahd Lah Al Kurd, a member of the Jordanian negotiating team, Foreign Ministry Ambassador Nabih Shukun and senior ministry officials Omar Rifat and Ziad Majali and Foreign Ministry advisor on

### MECC elects new leader

LIMASSOL (AP) — The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) Friday elected the Rev. Riad Jarjour as its new general secretary, replacing Gabriel Habib, who has held the post since 1977. Father Jarjour, a minister of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, has been an associate general secretary for the last eight years. The U.S.-educated clergyman takes over the Limassol-based council at a time when minority Christians are on the retreat in the Middle East. The crisis, and efforts to seek a dialogue with Muslims to stanch the swelling emigration of Christians from the region, is high on the agenda of the week-long Ecumenical assembly of the MECC, which opened Wednesday. Father Habib has been a forceful advocate of dialogue with Muslims during his tenure as general secretary of the MECC.

## Most Security Council states favour lifting sanctions — Aziz

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Friday that most of the 15 members of the Security Council favour lifting the sanctions against his country, indicating that only the United States and Britain were preventing it.

Mr. Aziz said the council's official response to Iraq's recognition of Kuwait was much less enthusiastic than most members had wanted. He said only two members, apparently referring to the United States and Britain, were preventing a lifting of the sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug. 1990. As permanent members of the council, the United States and Britain can veto any measure lifting sanctions.

Mr. Aziz declined to speculate on when the sanctions might be lifted. However, Western diplomats have said they believed that the remaining issues blocking the lifting of sanctions could be cleared up by as early as March.

### Paris denies report of FIS contact

PARIS (AFP) — The French foreign ministry Friday denied a report that envoys sent by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur had contacted the outlawed Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The report in the weekly Paris Match magazine said that emissaries from the time minister's office had contacted Mr. Kebir, the head of the FIS executive body in exile, who lives in Germany. "There is no contact of this nature, and France does not maintain contacts with the FIS," foreign ministry deputy spokesman Catherine Colonna said. With reference to a meeting announced to be taking place in Rome Monday and Tuesday with various Algerian leaders including the FIS, Ms. Colonna said that France encouraged political dialogue between those who are ready for it and who renounce violence and terrorism.

The Security Council letter to Iraq said the council considered the political and territorial recognition of Kuwait as a "significant step" and said the United Nations would continue to monitor the situation. Mr. Aziz said Iraq had met the conditions set in U.N. resolutions for lifting the economic sanctions and oil embargo by destroying all weapons of mass destruction and permitting a monitoring system to ensure that those weapons cannot be reassembled. He called reports that some chemical and biological weapons might have been hidden merely "allegations."

He denied that Iraq had refused to release some Kuwaiti prisoners of war — another U.N. requirement for lifting the sanction — but said that there remain people who are listed as missing in action.

Mr. Aziz said he was leaving New York later Friday for Geneva where he would ask the Red Cross to help settle this matter and also seek the release of 20,000 Iraqi prisoners who are still in Iran from the 1980-88 war. Mr. Aziz was at the United Nations on Friday to meet with non-aligned member nations of the Security Council who support lifting the economic sanctions.

## France, Britain set up joint air command

### CHARTERS, France (AFP)

France and Britain announced Friday they were setting up a new joint air command to coordinate bilateral action in hotspots around the world, but said the move posed no threat to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) solidarity. The initiative came amid increasingly open splits between Europe and the United States over how to resolve the war in Bosnia after the U.S. decision to stop supporting U.N. sanctions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## House finance panel chairman welcomes customs duty cuts

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy

the government and the International Monetary Fund and to meet conditions for joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

manner and the Central Bank of Jordan has enough hard currency reserves," he said.

Mr. Major was speaking at the end of a one-day Franco-British summit in Chateaufort, southwest of Paris, attended by his French counterpart Edouard Balladur and their respective defence and foreign ministers.

The government's decision cuts 27 to 44 per cent in customs duties on imported passenger vehicles and offers total exemptions for cargo transport vehicles.

Furthermore, he said, the reasons for increasing customs duties on imported goods no more exist, thus calling for bringing things back to normal and starting a gradual reduction of customs duties.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Abul Ragheb said the decision, which was taken Nov. 12, runs in conformity with the requirements of the new stage during which Jordan will have to become a modern country enjoying a sound investment climate.

Noting that the decision was taken to address several problems as recession and tax evasion, Mr. Abul Ragheb said the reductions in customs duties, which included, in addition to passenger vehicles, foodstuff, clothing, furnishings, mineral water, marble and building material were approved by the Cabinet in accordance with an agreement signed between

Mr. Abul Ragheb said high prices of imported items were a main factor in the rise of tax evasion cases taking various forms, either as bringing goods into the Kingdom under the guise of temporary imports or through smuggling.

But the comment came amid an increasingly open split between Europe and Washington and concern over the effect of a U.S. pullout from the U.N. embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian government. (Continued on page 12)

Jordanian citizens "deal with the issue in a rational

way.



## U.N. troops prepared to fight their way out of Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. troops in this lawless Somali capital are preparing to fight their way out if necessary their mandate expires at the end of March.

"I think it is clear the factions will fight for control of the port and the airport" where U.N. troops are stationed, said one senior U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Soldiers also said they deemed it likely that they would have to defend themselves as they left, with armed Somalis probably trying to loot U.N. equipment as well as fighting each other for control of key points.

Plans are being drawn up to have troops from NATO countries such as the United States, France and Italy cover the withdrawal of the last of the 15,000 U.N. soldiers still here, U.N. officials said.

The departure of the "Blue Helmets" follows the failure of Somalia's two principal warlords, General Mohammed Farah Aided and self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, to agree on a government of national unity.

U.N. Special Representative Victor Ghebho of Ghana said in an interview earlier this week that he expected "reality to dawn" on both men with an agreement to set up a unified government before the U.N. force departed, but added that "I wouldn't like to put a penny on any bet on what happens on April 1."

Mr. Ghebho said the withdrawal support force would be mainly amphibious, with landing ships carrying tanks lying offshore, and with weaponry force capable of destroying any tanks being used by the Somali factions. The force would strike only if the departing troops came under attack, he said, adding that he expected at least one aircraft carrier.

Other officials said the United States had been asked to provide a marine amphibious force, and that helicopter

gunships would hover overhead as the last troops left. General Abuu Samar Bakar, the Malaysian commander of the U.N. force, told AFP that he himself would be the last soldier to leave Mogadishu.

Both the port and airport are in Aided territory in south Mogadishu, but access to both can be blocked by militias loyal to Mr. Ali Mahdi, who holds the north of the capital.

Gen. Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi are still in deadlock. Contacts between the two sides continue, but the most recent ended in "total disagreement," Mr. Ali Mahdi in an interview Wednesday, accusing Gen. Aided of "megalomania" and "obstinacy."

"We have been trying until now to break the impasse," Ghebho said, "but at the weekend it became clear the SNA (Aided's Somali National Alliance), but not prepared to accept suggestion from the SSA (Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance). So the impasse continues."

Clan leaders supporting Gen. Aided pledged Sunday that they would cooperate to enforce security to enable the U.N. force to leave in an orderly and safe manner, but warned that the presence of support troops could open an unending progression of troops in and out of Somalia.

Mr. Ghebho retorted in the interview that the clan leaders were in no position to object to U.N. safety measures, adding that "the Security Council is not infusing another U.N. force into Somalia."

The U.N. soldiers will be leaving behind an 8,500-strong Somali police force they have trained and thousands of civilians now working for the United Nations and its contractors. They will also hand over to elders or regional authorities the keys to the jails they have set up.

The United Nations will pay the police "up to the day we leave, but there is no question of any payment beyond

that," Mr. Ghebho said, acknowledging that both police and civilian staff could "turn into bandits."

The U.N. force has already had trouble with Somali employees, officials said.

Mr. Ghebho said U.N. personnel would be careful not to hand over jail keys to the wrong people because "that would be an invitation to slaughter the prisoners like sheep."

### Canada to probe charges

Canadian Defence Minister David Collette set up a public inquiry Thursday into allegations that Canadian soldiers serving in the U.N. mission brutally tortured young Somalis.

The announcement came one day after a Canadian military doctor who served in the U.N. mission in March 1993 told a newspaper that senior officers had ordered the destruction of photographs showing soldiers torturing Somalis.

Major Barry Armstrong said in an interview to the Ottawa Sun that the orders were given as part of an attempt by the Canadian military to cover up widespread acts of torture and violence in Somalia.

Mr. Collette urged Maj. Armstrong and other members of the armed forces who might have information in the case to "make that evidence known to the military police."

The defence minister said the inquiry panel would be headed by a civilian but did not specify when it would begin work.

Officials said the Defence Ministry would await the outcome of an appeal launched by two soldiers who were convicted by a military tribunal before setting plans for the inquiry in motion.

In his remarks to the Ottawa Sun, Maj. Armstrong stated categorically that officers wanted to get rid of the photographs taken at the village of Belet Huen.



FLOODS IN GAZA: Palestinian residents try Gaza City as bad weather continued in the to save their cars in the overflooded streets of region Thursday (AFP photo)

## Aid groups to stay in Somalia

GENEVA (R) — United Nations, governmental and independent aid organisations said on Thursday they were determined to maintain operations in conflict-torn Somalia despite a withdrawal next March by the U.N. peacekeeping force UNOSOM.

But they declared they would resist efforts by militias to extract protection payments and would insist that local Somali leaders ensure security for rehabilitation and medical projects and their international and national staff.

Speaking on behalf of organisations working in Somalia and currently in conference in Geneva, Richard McCall of the United States USAID body told reporters: "We can't say if UNOSOM is leaving, we are leaving: we are not."

Pierce Gerety, of the U.N. Children's Fund, (UNICEF), said his organisation intended "to continue our programmes and promote immunisation, health care, nutrition and basic education for Somali children and families."

They spoke at a news conference during a session of the Somalia AID Coordination Body (SACB) which links donor countries, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations promoting reconstruction in the African state.

Over recent weeks, some groups with projects in Somalia

which had no government since 1991 when dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown — have expressed fears of chaos and looting when UNOSOM is gone.

But Mr. McCall, Mr. Gerety and representatives of other groupings in the Nairobi-based SACB indicated that local and regional communities were increasingly ready to prevent militias interfering with aid operations.

And they suggested that new leaders were emerging in the country's regions and sub-regions who could help put together a new structure for the country's administration and ensure aid was not diverted to fuel a war economy.

SACB had agreed that local Somali authorities must guarantee and provide security for aid operations, said Mr. McCall, who chaired the Geneva meeting. If they could not, it was being made clear that foreign agencies would not be able to work there.

"We have agreed that it is time for the Somalis to take it upon themselves if they want us in their region," said Marc Guillaud of the charity Medicins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) Belgium which runs hospitals and medical centres in Somalia.

In an interview this week, SACB Standing Committee Chairman Sigurd Illing said

he saw the best hope for the future of the country — where tens of thousands died in a famine in 1991 and 1992 — in the emergence of a regional-based federation.

Power in Mogadishu, the capital, is disputed between warlords Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed. But Mr. Illing, the European Union's Kenya-based envoy to Somalia, said many Somalis were opposed to recreating a centralised state.

Mr. McCall told Thursday's news conference it was "time to give the Somalis room to reach their own decisions and solutions. 'No framework could be imposed from the outside through setting deadlines for negotiations."

"I think is a mistake to assume that in a certain time period you're going to get a certain result," he declared.

When the U.N. peacekeeping effort was launched in December 1992 with the arrival of U.S. forces, the aim was to achieve the establishment of a new government within 18 months.

But that aim was frustrated by fierce clan fighting in Mogadishu and other cities. Some diplomats who follow Somali affairs say the U.N. is still placing too much emphasis on getting accord between the faction leaders in the capital.

## Israel, Palestinian nerves fray over police march

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Thursday accused each other of not being committed to peace in a row over Palestinian police who shouted their claim to cities deep inside the Jewish state in a military-style ceremony.

Israel complained to the Palestinian self-rule authority over the incident, the latest to fray nerves on both sides. Palestinian leaders counter-claimed that Israel was blowing the incident out of all proportion.

The row blew up two days after PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in what appeared to be a slip of the tongue, publicly referred to "the Israeli enemy" in a speech in Gaza commemorating Palestinian independence day.

Film shot by Reuters at a police graduation ceremony in the other Palestinian-ruled enclave of Jericho on Tuesday and broadcast on Israeli Television the next day showed scores of police in military fatigues.

Witnesses said they chanted the names of Haifa and Beit Shean, cities inside Israel.

Jibril Rajoub, head of Mr. Arafat's secret police in the West Bank, said in an interview on Israeli Television: "I think to make a story of this is not good will on the part of the media in Israel."

"People will sing. What is this? It's all that bothersome that a man says Ashdod or doesn't say Haifa?" he added.

For Israelis, the scene vividly evoked fears the PLO was not really committed to accepting the existence of Israel, as agreed in last year's peace treaty, but dreamed one day of recovering all of Palestine.

Another cause of irritation came on Thursday when

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin linked Palestinian elections to the PLO carrying out its commitment to alter parts of its charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

Palestinian leaders accused Israel of delaying elections, the next major step in the peace agreement, out of an unwillingness to implement a pledged troop redeployment in the West Bank by the eve of balloting.

Israel and the PLO recognised each other last year when they made peace, but for many on both sides the memory of decades of fighting remains powerful. Each side keenly watches the other for signs of the old hostility.

A spokesman said the Israeli army formally complained to the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho about the police ceremony.

At the parade ground, the crowd applauded Jawad Shahwan, a former activist in Mr. Arafat's Fatah group, as he gave a martial arts demonstration. Israel said he was wanted for the killing of several Palestinians suspected of collaborating with it.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, an Israeli peace negotiator, said the accord with the PLO stipulated Palestinians must submit the name of every policeman for vetting by Israel.

"If we have objections, he cannot enlist. It is perfectly clear that as long as there are violations and they are not rectified, it is impossible to continue," Mr. Sarid told Israeli Radio, referring to further peace moves.

Ahmad Tibi, an Arab Israeli adviser to Mr. Arafat, said Israeli hostility to peace were exaggerating incidents to destroy confidence in the peace agreement.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Turkish vote scheduled for Dec. 4 postponed

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish electoral authorities have postponed partial legislative elections on Dec. 4 after the high court overturned a law denying the right to vote to residents of the southeast who have been forced to leave their village because of the Kurdish rebellion. The head of the electoral council, Othman Yavuz, said Thursday the vote was postponed to allow parliament time to work out new legislation. The elections are for 22 vacant parliamentary seats, 15 of them in the southeast, where Kurdish separatists and Turkish security forces are locked in a bitter bloody struggle. Ninety-three deputies from different parties had asked the constitutional court to strike down the legislation. The pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party announced earlier this month that it would boycott the elections, fearing they would not be democratically organised.

### Israelis to teach security in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — In the wake of two deadly bombing attacks in Buenos Aires, Israeli security experts will give classes on protection of potential targets, an Israeli embassy official said Thursday. The private, Tel Aviv-based Professional School of Security has been authorised by the Israel defence Ministry to open a training school in Buenos Aires, a spokesperson for Israeli Military Attaché Meir Zamir told the Associated Press. Neither the embassy nor the ministry will be involved with the school, the spokesperson said in a phone interview. On July 17, a bomb destroyed the seven-storey building of Argentina's main Jewish community centre, killing 95 people. In March 1992, another bomb razed the Israeli embassy, killing 28. Investigations have proved inconclusive and no one has been convicted for either crime, although authorities have blamed Middle East-based groups.

### Assad's son appointed tank commander

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The son of Syrian President Hafez al Assad was Thursday appointed commander of a tank battalion in the Syrian army, the official news agency SANA reported. Captain Bashar al Assad was promoted during a ceremony at Homs in northern Syria attended by General Mustafa Tlass, Syria's defence minister. Bashar al Assad, 28, was pushed into the limelight following the death of his elder brother Bassel, who was being groomed for the succession, in an automobile accident last January. In a speech shortly after his brother's death, Bashar pledged to continue working "for the dignity and honour of the country."

## Washington upbeat about Mideast peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Two State Department officials gave an upbeat assessment Wednesday of the ongoing Middle East peace process in the wake of President Clinton's historic Mideast tour earlier this month and the results of the recent Casablanca economic summit which was attended by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The two spoke on background at the Foreign Press Centre, requesting that they be identified as "State Department officials." Their briefing covered the Middle East peace process, the economic summit conference in Morocco earlier this month, and U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, now in control of the self-rule areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At U.S. urging, one of the officials reported, the donors who have pledged but have not fully paid their share of the \$2.4 billion last year to help the fledgling Palestinian Authority will be meeting in Brussels on Nov. 29 to consider the whole issue of start-up funds.

"We spent some time in recent weeks working with the Palestinians to develop an agreed-upon budget which could be presented to the donors and which would identify a gap that the donors

would then be prepared to fund," he explained. "We hope to have the donors come together and pledge new assistance in order to meet this gap on start-up costs," he said.

In reply to a question on the donors' reported concern over the Authority's lack of "transparency and accountability," he said the United States has worked hard with the World Bank and the Palestinians on setting up "mechanisms of transfer the assistance that we feel meet these standards of transparency and accountability."

The briefing Wednesday came on the eve of the visit here of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who will be meeting with President Clinton and Congressional leaders next week following the Republican Party's sweep of this month's national elections, which resulted in their control of the two U.S. legislatures for the first time in decades.

The officials pointed to "extremely encouraging strides" in the peace process and the multilateral tracks, which involve delegations from several Arab countries, Israel, Europe, Japan, Russia and the United States.

They said there have been "very significant achievements" both on the human and psychological levels in

terms of breaking down barriers that have existed for decades between Israel and the Arab states.

They noted that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty — witnessed by President Clinton during ceremonies in Wadi Arabi, Jordan — demonstrated that "direct negotiations are the best route to peace." In this respect, they added, the United States is "very pleased and proud" of its "catalytic" role in facilitating these negotiations.

Secretary of State Christopher is slated to make another trip to the Middle East before the end of the year but the officials did not provide a date or a venue for the trip.

As to the economic summit in Morocco, the officials expressed satisfaction with the turnout at the three-day meeting — 61 countries were represented — and its Casablanca Declaration.

The basic message coming from Casablanca, one of the officials said, was that the Middle East was now open for business since "the political problems which have prevented regional interaction are beginning to go away."

He added that "in the coming months" a follow up meeting of experts will look into the conference's agreement "to examine the idea of

a regional development bank." No date was announced.

Additionally, a steering committee of the key participants will be meeting later this month to look into the summit agreement to set up a regional tourism board and a chamber of commerce or business council "to help cement the business ties that were developed in Casablanca."

U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, one of the officials reported, will total \$500 million over five years. This year, he explained, the United States obligated \$25 million for start-up costs which have been paid directly to the World Bank's Holst Fund, named after the late Norwegian foreign minister who was instrumental in arranging the Israeli-Palestinian secret peace talks last year.

A second portion of \$50 million has been obligated to development projects, including the construction of a housing project in Gaza, and rehabilitation of schools and clinics in refugee camps has been paid through the World Bank and U.S. private voluntary organisations with "a long track record" in the West Bank and Gaza.

The remainder, \$25 million, was allocated for pro-

jects initiated by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). This U.S. government agency has subsequently been instrumental in launching nine projects by private investors representing a capital investment of \$100 million with the potential of generating 5,000 jobs in the Palestinian areas.

Turning to the activities of the five multilateral working groups, the other official pointed out that their significance lay in their "tearing down some of the psychological and political barriers" between Arabs and Israelis; consequently precipitating "meetings in corners of rooms between people in the same field — hydrologists, environmentalists, scientists, arms control experts."

At the Bahrain meeting last month of the multilateral environmental group, he reported, a non-binding agreement was reached on "a code of conduct" for the Middle East, the first such code that has been agreed to anywhere in the region.

This group is now working on contingency arrangements dealing with oil spills, particularly in the Gulf of Aqaba; desertification, and waste water treatment.

Bahrain, he said, will be shortly holding a meeting to establish a regional environ-

mental centre there, and Jordan wants to follow suit.

The United States will also be leading a team to Cairo focusing on environmental health and pesticides, he added.

In the water resources group, the official reported that Oman has plans to create a regional desalination research centre in Muscat and that Israel has also identified specific sites for an Israel-led project on rehabilitating municipal water supply systems.

A regional water data bank, supported financially by the United States and Canada, has also been endorsed by this multilateral group at their Athens meeting last month.

The arms control and regional security group, he continued, will be working at its next plenary session in Tunis next month on "a major region-wide declaration" on arms control and regional security.

"Significant progress has been made and it will be a positive statement," the official said.

Other issues to be taken up in Tunis include the establishment of a regional centre for conflict prevention and regional security, and cooperation on search and rescue at sea.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays Merveilles  
17:30 Un Pour Tous  
18:00 Reportage  
18:30 Le Vent De Mort  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Grand Golpe  
19:30 Harry and the Hendersons  
20:00 Doc. "Innovation"  
20:10 Murder the Wrote  
20:30 Quantum Leap  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature film: "Shadow of a Doubt"  
23:59 Major Card

#### PRAYER TIMES

06:02 Fajr  
06:02 (Shamsh) Dhuhr  
11:21 Dhuhr  
14:15 'Asr  
16:40 Maghrob  
18:00 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish Tel: 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 677446  
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366

### Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541

Anglican Church Tel: 630851, Tel: 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel: 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195  
The Lutheran Day Centre Tel: 654992  
Church of Nazareth Tel: 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Temperatures will rise slightly with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds becoming southerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 6 / 20  
Aqaba ..... 10 / 28  
Dahab ..... 4 / 27  
Jordan Valley ..... 10 / 27  
Yesterday's high temperatures:

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 18, Aqaba 25 Humidity readings: Amman 41, per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mubir Mazharah ..... 820425  
Dr. Khalil Jibali ..... 740740  
Dr. Ramzi Mawzi ..... 794788  
Dr. Khalil Tashiq ..... 615715  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy ..... 637055  
Naboukh pharmacy ..... 626372  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Fayez Al Oadi ..... 248743  
Aqaba pharmacy ..... (-)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Hisham Hyasni ..... 982440  
Khafif pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 671701  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Director (assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 771111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

#### RJ Flight Information

08-53200  
Queens Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 81831/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Anan 6442816  
Akhleh Maternity, J. Anan 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Melbas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6617174  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Musader Hospital ..... 672219  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6616446  
Indian, Al-Makajresn ..... 7710153  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751176  
Army, Marka ..... 89161715  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60234050  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)986732  
In Sias Hospital (09)900560  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)989799  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

##### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
06:15 Amman, Aqaba (RJ)  
09:25 Dhahran (RJ)  
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)  
09:55 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:15 Beirut (RJ)  
10:25 Colombo (RJ)  
13:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:05 London (RJ)  
16:30 Cairo (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)  
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)  
18:15 Dubai (EK)  
19:00 Sanaa (YV)  
19:05 Larnaca (CY)  
20:20 Beirut (ME)  
21:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)  
23:05 Athens (OA)  
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 Cairo (MS)

##### DEPARTURES

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:25 Beirut (RJ)  
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 London (RJ)  
12:45 Athens (OA)  
15:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:05 Larnaca (RJ)  
20:40 Damascus (RJ)  
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
01:15 Jeddah (RJ)  
04:10 London (RJ)

##### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)  
13:50 Vienna (OS)  
19:15 Dubai (EK)  
20:00 Sanaa (YV)  
22:00 Larnaca (CY)  
23:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)

#### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 500  
Banana ..... 600 / 400  
Banana (Mikamara) ..... 620  
Cabbage ..... 120 / 70  
Carrot ..... 300 / 180  
Cauliflower ..... 300 / 200  
Cucumber ..... 150 / 80  
Eggplant ..... 340 / 220  
Garlic ..... 320 / 200  
Grape Fruit ..... 300 / 200  
Marrow (large) ..... 320 / 180  
Marrow



## House condemns partitioning of Ibrahimi Mosque

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament issued a statement condemning Israel's partitioning of Al Ibrahimi Mosque, in the occupied city of Hebron on the West Bank, as a flagrant aggression on the rights of Arabs and Muslims.

The statement, issued Thursday, said that the Israeli move contradicted the provisions of the peace process which is supposed to bring about stability and security and restore legitimate rights to their lawful owners.

The Israelis reopened the mosque of Nov. 7, nine months after a Jewish settler machinegunned more than 30 Muslims as they knelt in prayer.

The Israeli authorities have assigned separate sections for Jews and Muslims, and tightened security around and inside the shrine.

The Parliament statement said that the Jews have no right at all to pray in the mosque and their presence there is a major obstacle in the path of restoring peace and security.

The partitioning of the mosque, one of the holiest places for Muslims, has angered all Muslims who never faced any problem in exercising their full rights at the mosque even under the British Mandate, said the statement.

It said that the encroachment on Al Ibrahimi Mosque was a sacrilege brought to the Islamic holy places and encouraged the Jewish settlers around Hebron to seize Arab homes and other property in the city and force the Arab population to leave.

The statement considered the partitioning of the mosque as a reward by the government of Israel to the Jewish settlers for their crime against the Muslim worshippers and could serve as a precedent for Jewish seizures of other holy sites in Palestine.

The statement called on the Arab states and Muslim nations to end their differences and join hands in foiling attempts on their holy places.

## Jordan takes part in London exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Mohammad Adwan, Minister of tourism and antiquities, visited the Jordanian stand at the World Travel Market exhibition which was held in London between Nov. 14-17.

The WTM exhibition is considered one of the most important tourism exhibitions in Europe where over 5,500 organisations from 160 countries participate. The WTM is visited by 1,800 media representatives and 45,000 tourism and travel specialists.

Jordan's participation which started in 1980, aims at introducing and promoting the Kingdom's touristic attractions. The Jordanian stand has been organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian airline and a number of representatives from the tourism private sector in Jordan.

The Jordanian stand was visited by a very large number of people.

Dr. Adwan visited a number of Arab countries' stands as well as the Israeli stand. The Royal Jordanian folklore troupe has contributed to attracting visitors to the Jordanian stand.



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday attended a concert by the Colonne Choral troupe, held at the Royal Cultural Centre to mark the King's birthday. Also attending the concert, which was organised by the Ministry of Culture, were prime minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Princess Ghida, the King's Cultural Advisor Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and senior government officials. Minister of Culture Juma' Hammad presented King Hussein a symbolic gift and the troupe director presented the King with a medal on the occasion.

## JEA, JICA train Palestinian engineers

AMMAN (J.T.) — In recognition of the importance of granting technical assistance to the Palestinian people, Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), with support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has started a training course for Palestinian engineers in the field of electric power.

The course, the first of its kind in Jordan, was especially designed by JEA and JICA for the Palestinian engineers. The training aims at providing the 20 participants with essential knowledge and techniques regarding construction and maintenance of the distribution networks of the electric power, which will be the basic infrastructure in the autonomous region.

The lectures and practical work will be given and supervised by the JEA officials. The course will last until March 1995, and accommodation will be provided to all the engineers. The Japanese government, through JICA, bears the cost of \$160,000 for this programme.

The realisation of this assistance from Japan stems from Japan's firm support for the development in this region, especially in the new era of peace. The Japanese embassy said in a statement. Japan has so far offered a number of technical cooperation programmes to Jordan, amounting to over \$70 million. For 1993 alone, technical cooperation projects from Japan to Jordan reached about \$8 million.

The opening ceremony was held at the JEA headquarters on Nov. 17 and was attended by Talal Ureigat, minister of energy and mineral resources and Yuji Ikeda, ambassador of Japan.

Meanwhile, a reporter who works for the Shihan newspaper said the guard had told police that he recognised one of the attackers involved in the incident.

According to the reporter, who preferred not to be identified, the guard told police that he had recognised one of the intruders because he (the attacker) had come a day before looking for a reporter and the managing editor of the newspaper, sat and waited for them, but left because both men were busy.

Mr. Ma'aytah was not available over the weekend for comment.

Police officials were unavailable Friday evening for comment on the incident.

## Police searching for Shihan attackers

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — City police are searching for assailants who reportedly attacked the Shihan newspaper building early Thursday morning and threw a brick at a 26-year-old man who was guarding the newspaper premises, police sources said.

According to a witness, who also guards the newspaper and was present at the time, police questioned witnesses and investigated the scene, that police discovered four Molotov cocktails hidden in different areas of the two-storey building. None of the bombs went off, he added.

He told the Jordan Times Thursday evening that his colleague Mansour Ma'aytah, who was working at the time of the attack, was hit in the back of his head by a brick "apparently thrown by one of the intruders."

He said that two intruders climbed the roof of the building. One of them threw the brick, while few more standing at the entrance of the newspaper.

"After he was hit with the brick, Mansour (the guard) managed to reach his gun and fired several shots in the air to scare the perpetrators off; upon hearing the gun shots they fled the scene," said the 50-year-old man.

According to a reporter who works for the Hawadeth Assa'a (a crime tabloid), which shares the same building with Shihan, claimed that the guard actually hit one of the perpetrators when he used his gun.

Police sources contacted by the Jordan Times Thursday evening would not confirm the claim and refused to comment or release further details on the incident.

## Police searching for Shihan attackers

Meanwhile, a reporter who works for the Shihan newspaper said the guard had told police that he recognised one of the attackers involved in the incident.

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Mr. Ma'aytah was not available over the weekend for comment.

Police officials were unavailable Friday evening for comment on the incident.

## Man found dead in hotel room

In a separate incident, police are investigating the mysterious death of a 32-year-old man who was found dead Thursday in a hotel room in the downtown of Amman, according to a police report.

According to the report, the owner of the hotel told police that he had become worried about one of his clients as he did not leave room for two consecutive days.

He said he went with one of his employees to check on the man. When the man did not answer the knock on the door, the report said, the hotel owner knocked the door down and found the man slumped over the table.

The forensic exam estimated the death had occurred 36 hours before. The body was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital for autopsy.

## GUVS president awarded

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib has been named the "Outstanding volunteer fund-raiser of the year" in appreciation of his distinguished community services, according to a press release by GUVS. Dr. Khatib, the first figure from any developing country to receive this award, which is granted every other year to only one individual, was presented the award in recognition of his distinguished fund raising efforts, especially in the establishment of Al Amal Cancer Centre. The award was granted to Dr. Khatib by United Way International (UWI), a non-profit organisation which was incorporated in 1974 by United Way of America, an organisation established in 1887 to raise funds to help finance national and community service projects and centres in the United States. The designation of Dr. Khatib as the outstanding volunteer fund-raiser of 1994 was made by a judges' board during the organisation's biennial conference, held in Budapest in 1994, in the presence of 52 international delegations. Out of the 260 foreign United Ways in 33 countries GUVS is the only Arab voluntary organisation affiliated with UWI.

## TCC sets up emergency unit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation has established an emergency unit to deal with any major disruption, or damage that might be caused to the corporation's installations, and equipment, including telephone lines, according to the corporation's acting Director General Waleed Dweik. Mr. Dweik said the corporation has set aside two telephone lines to receive emergency calls from the public. The two telephone numbers are 465153 and 465154. Mr. Dweik said these lines are set aside for major disruptions to the telephone lines.

## First tomato consignment to leave for Israel this week

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first consignment of Jordanian tomatoes will head for Israel Sunday or Monday after an agreement has been reached on a \$2 per kilogramme price, the head of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing Corporation (JAMCO), Saleem Al Lawzi, said Friday.

Mr. Lawzi said JAMCO, a government agency, was not formally involved in the negotiations between the exporters and importer but he was told "unofficially" that an agreement was reached on the price.

"I expect the first consignment to leave Jordan on Sunday or Monday," Mr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times, adding that he did not have further details.

It will be the first Jordanian exports to Israel. The two countries signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 and the treaty was fully formalised and ratified on Nov. 10, clearing the way for diplomatic relations and economic cooperation including trade ties.

Israel turned to Jordan for its needs of tomatoes this month after imposing a ban on produce from its traditional sources in the Gaza Strip, citing a cholera outbreak there. The ban led to serious shortages of tomatoes in Israel since the

Israeli production had also fallen following a drop in prices several months ago. JAMCO, whose role is limited to issuing permissions for produce exports and ensuring that the quality and specifications of the exported products are compatible with those sought by the importer, has issued permissions for 800 tonnes of tomato exports to Israel. But no shipment has been made because of disagreements over prices.

The Israelis are seeking three distinct qualities of tomatoes: medium, large and extra large — more in line with European standards — and in new cartons, as opposed to the traditional polystyrene and old wood boxes by Jordanian exporters.

"These demands will definitely increase the price" to higher than the prices that Jordanian exporters offer to their regular markets in the Gulf states where the specifications are not so rigid, said Bashir Badawi, a produce exporter from the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Badawi echoed Mr. Lawzi's comments that the specifications that Israelis have set would definitely push prices higher. "I think the actual cost price could go up to \$2; so what is the point in trying to sell to the Israelis while we are assured of our cost plus profit in the Gulf markets?"

asked Mr. Badawi, who is shooting for a more than \$2 a kilo price from Israelis for his tomatoes.

If an agreement is reached with Israelis, Mr. Badawi said, he will be in a position to send 60 tonnes a week to Israel across the "Jordan River bridge" crossing in the north, which was opened on Nov. 10. The crossing at the old Sheikh Hussein Bridge will be the main access for cargo movement between the two countries.

Mr. Badawi said his firm could also offer aubergines, green peppers and other vegetables to Israel, but he had not received any inquiries.

In general, market analysts believe that the specifications set by the Israeli importers could help Jordanian exporters diversify their exports if only because they would be more attuned to the standards sought by European importers.

Mr. Lawzi said Jordan exports about 350 tonnes of tomatoes to the Gulf markets every day at an average price of about \$1.5 a kilogramme.

The Kingdom could send about 150 tonnes a day to Israel if agreement were reached on the price, Abdul Rahman Abu Sneh, a senior JAMCO official, said Wednesday.

Tomato production in the summer peak season exceeds 4,000 tonnes per day, dropping to around 1,000 tonnes in winter season. This explains the low prices in summer and the high prices in winter.

However, haphazard exports without proper quality controls now — when the market has largely medium and low-quality tomatoes — could set back hopes for large Israeli import orders in the summer.

The shortage of tomatoes has shot up prices in Israel to nearly \$3 per kilogramme and prompted a Gallup poll on the market trend.

The poll, whose results were published by the Jerusalem Post, found that 19 per cent of the public had stopped buying tomatoes because of the high price and another 25 per cent had significantly cut their consumption.

Only 25 per cent of the 350 Israelis polled said they were continuing to buy tomatoes as usual.

Israel radio reported that 90 per cent of the over 2,000 people responding to a call in survey said they would be willing to abstain from consuming tomatoes until the price drops.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has appealed to Israelis to fight inflation and stop buying tomatoes to stem the increase in price.

## JPA proposes new law to keep pace with current development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Sulaiman Qudah said in a statement Friday that the time has come for the government to introduce a modern law to organise and promote the work of Jordanian journalists.

"The present JPA law has been in existence since 1983, but many developments have occurred at the political and other levels, justifying the enactment of a new legislation capable of catering to the new developments and enabling the JPA to act more effectively," said Mr. Qudah.

Mr. Qudah was speaking before the start of a debate on a JPA draft law by the Legal Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, to start on Sunday.

He said the time has come for the government and Parliament to reconsider the existing JPA law, especially as the country is now living under a democracy requiring more flexible rules and because the old law has numerous loopholes and gaps.

Furthermore, new laws like the Press and Publication Law and the Political Parties Law which are now in force have direct impact on the JPA, noted Mr. Qudah.

Noting that the JPA has prepared a number of proposals to be included in the draft law, Mr. Qudah said these primarily concern JPA membership rights as a first

priority. A group of people have been practising journalism for a long time but since they lack the minimum eligibility requirements under the old law they cannot apply for JPA membership, Mr. Qudah explained.

He said another proposal concerns the settlement of issues related to political parties newspapers and a third concerns JPA rights to handle issues pertaining to journalists and the institutions employing them.

He said the JPA hopes that the new draft law would grant the journalists more freedom of expression under democracy and help promote their profession.

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**BIDDING FAREWELL:** Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and Princess Rania Al Abdullah Thursday bid farewell to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his departure for London at the beginning of a three-nation tour which will take him to Belgium, Austria and Britain, the first leg of his tour. The Crown Prince is accompanied on his two-week tour by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan. Bidding them farewell were also Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the King's advisors and senior civil and military officials.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sabella welcome:

Professor Yikyasu Sezal  
Vice president, Nihon University, Dean, Nihon University, School of Medicine

Professor Kensuke Harada  
Professor and Chairman, Department of Paediatrics

Professor Hideo Mugiishima  
Assistant professor and director, Department of paediatrics, paediatric hematology/oncology

and wish them a happy stay in Jordan. Mr. and Mrs. Sabella also congratulate the visiting professors on signing a cooperation agreement between Nihon University, School of Medicine, and the University of Jordan. They also thank Mr. Y. Nakagawa, Tokyo Manager of Singer Nikko Co. Ltd, Japan, for his extraordinary efforts to ensure the project's success. Thanks are also due to Mr. Husam Bazbaz from the Jordanian Embassy in Tokyo for his valuable support of the project.

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- ☐ Sponsoring a Family House for JD 500 / year
- ☐ Sponsoring contributions as a Friend of the SOS for JD

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P.O.Box 926405  
AMMAN - JORDAN  
Tel. 665724



شكرا من اصدقائي



## Ireland plunged into political void

DUBLIN (AFP) — Ireland was plunged into political limbo Friday as Albert Reynolds, who abruptly resigned as prime minister Thursday, clung to the leadership of his Fianna Fail Party, muddling the race to succession.

Mr. Reynolds, forced out in a bitter row with Labour partners in his two-year-old coalition, had been expected to step down as party leader shortly after handing his resignation to President Mary Robinson.

But at a meeting of Fianna Fail's parliamentary team late Thursday, he failed to do so, and although he promised to resign, will still be at the helm when the party meets Saturday to choose a new leader.

The parliamentary team meeting adjourned with the news, hours after Mr. Reynolds' resignation, that High Court President Harry

Whelehan had also quit. It was Mr. Reynolds' controversial appointment of Judge Whelehan a week earlier that sparked the conflict that brought down the government.

Observers said Mr. Reynolds, in stalling his resignation as party leader, might have been making a late bid to sway the succession, shaping up as a race between Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan-Quinn and Finance Minister Bertie Ahern.

Mr. Ahern, 43, popular former mayor of Dublin, was considered the front-runner, his Dublin power base seen by observers as a potential asset that could help Fianna Fail recapture lost electoral ground in the capital.

Ms. Geoghegan-Quinn's disadvantage was seen as her perceived proximity to Mr. Reynolds and to the row that forced him out.

She was Judge Whelehan's boss when, as attorney general, he dragged his feet for seven months in extraditing a Catholic priest charged with, and subsequently convicted of, sexually molesting children in Northern Ireland.

It was that long delay — rumoured to have been influenced by the church — that enraged Labour, whose six ministers — led by Foreign Minister Dick Spring — walked out of the coalition and set the stage for Mr. Reynolds' resignation.

This week, as the power struggle peaked and Mr. Reynolds' position grew increasingly untenable, Ms. Geoghegan-Quinn offered to resign, but Mr. Reynolds declined.

Mr. Spring meanwhile emerged as a key player in the fall of Mr. Reynolds' government. Participation of his party was seen as an indispensable element in any

successful coalition.

Any successor to Mr. Reynolds as head of Fianna Fail was expected to try to patch up relations with Labour in a bid to restore the coalition government.

But Labour have already had initial talks with John Bruton, leader of the Fine Gael opposition party, about the formation of a new alliance.

Should neither of those possibilities work out, general elections would have to be held, possibly before Christmas.

Mr. Reynolds, in announcing his resignation, pointedly said he would not ask Mrs. Robinson to dissolve parliament, an option that would have made elections within three weeks a certainty.

The course he took left the president with the prerogative of asking the former partners to try to form another coalition.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (left) invites Mr. Aliyev to start their talks. (AFP photo)

## Karabakh tripartite summit agreed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia have agreed to hold a tripartite summit to settle the deadly conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani embassy said Friday.

An embassy spokesman gave no date or venue for the summit, to be attended by Presidents Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Geidar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Armenia's Levon Ter-Petrosian.

He said the agreement to hold the summit was reached at talks between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Aliyev in Moscow Thursday and that preparations had begun to hold the meeting "soon." The Russian president's office would not confirm or deny the report.

In a separate report from Geneva, diplomatic sources said a high-level meeting on the disputed enclave would be held in December in the Swiss city. They said the heads of state of Armenia and Azerbaijan would attend along with U.N. chief Boutros Ghali and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

More than 20,000 people have died in fighting since 1988 over the largely-Armenian populated enclave in western Azerbaijan.

Dr. Ghali held talks about the dispute this month with both Mr. Aliyev and Mr. Ter-Petrosian as well as with Mr. Yeltsin.

On Thursday the Russian and Azeri presidents met to discuss the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the future of oilfields in the Caspian Sea.

The talks focused on ways to bring a political solution to the bitter seven year conflict over Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave which has announced its independence from Azerbaijan, Mr. Yeltsin's press office said.

The ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the Azeri embassy in Moscow as saying that Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Aliyev also discussed the sensitive issue of the development of oilfields in the Caspian Sea after Baku's milestone deal with a consortium of major oil companies.

The Azeri parliament Tuesday ratified a \$7.4 billion contract to develop three Caspian Sea oilfields with a

group of mainly Western oil firms. Only one Russian company, Lukoil, was part of the consortium.

The deal, signed on Sept. 20, triggered objections from the Russian Foreign Ministry, which said no single country had jurisdiction over resources in the Caspian Sea.

A special commission has been set up to coordinate activities by the five littoral states — Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran.

Mr. Yeltsin also urged Mr. Aliyev to press for a political deal with Karabakh authorities and neighbouring Armenia, Karabakh's main supporter, the Russian leader's press office said.

The office said Mr. Aliyev thanked Moscow for helping to settle a conflict which claimed thousands of lives.

Mr. Aliyev and Mr. Ter-Petrosian met for initial talks in Moscow in September. Fighting effectively stopped in Karabakh after Moscow brokered a ceasefire which came into force in May. But there is still no firm political agreement between the conflicting parties.

## Finnish MPs ratify EU membership

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finland's parliament Friday ratified the country's accession to the European Union (EU).

After a marathon debate, parliament voted 152-45 in favour of membership, easily passing the two-thirds majority needed for the ratification.

One MP abstained and one was absent. The speaker does not vote.

Finnish voters 56.9 to 43.1 per cent in the advisory referendum Sept. 18 in favour of the country's joining the EU.

The debate in parliament's plenary session lasted some 150 hours in all. It began on Nov. 2 after a lengthy debate in the Foreign Policy Committee.

According to the original

timetable, the ratification was due to take place well before Sweden's referendum on Nov. 13.

But filibustering MPs who opposed Finnish membership managed to delay the ratification, and the third reading of the bill continued Monday, the day after the Swedes also had voted for the membership.

The opponents, led by former foreign minister and former leader of the Centre Party Paavo Vaeyrynen, had hoped they could swing the parliament against the EU if Sweden voted "no."

Vesa Laukkanen, an independent elected as a Christian Party candidate and who made marathon speeches of up to six-and-a-half hours, abstained.

On Thursday evening he tendered his resignation and said he wished to resign from parliamentary functions.

A poll on whether Finland's autonomous Swedish-speaking province of Aaland should join the EU will be held Sunday. The ballot is advisory, and the final decision whether to join will be taken by the provincial diet.

The result of the islands, which lay between Finland and neighbouring Sweden, is expected to be a clear "yes" after Sweden's referendum.

Finland is due to join the EU on Jan. 1, with Austria, Sweden and Norway.

## Aristide names army chief

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP)

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide picked his own man to command Haitian troops, attempting to break a sad cycle of national history and to subordinate the soldiers to civilian rule.

Mr. Aristide picked Brig. Gen. Bernardin Poisson, an American- and French-trained career soldier fire-fighting specialist who has never commanded troops in the field.

Mr. Aristide named a police chief earlier in the week. The job remains of training a professional police force, separate from the army, and reducing the armed forces to about 1,500 soldiers.

Multinational police advisers have helped cull a 700-member interim police force from the army to be replaced by graduates from a police academy that starts classes in January.

Mr. Aristide has said he wants to instill "the respect for life" in the army and police force.

Gen. Poisson, 46, had been considered the front-runner for the post since his promotion from colonel on Oct. 18 by interim army chief Maj. Gen. Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Fire chief since 1988 until his promotion, Brig. Poisson is considered a technocrat with no political connections.

Mr. Aristide, overthrown in a military coup in September 1991 led by Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, his previous hand-picked army chief, returned from exile on Oct. 15 with the aid of thousands of American troops.

Under the agreement engineered by the U.S. military, Gen. Duvalier became the interim army chief during the transition from military to civilian rule.

## Indian army chief dies in office

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian army chief Bipin Chandra Joshi, who held key command positions in a 40-year military career, died here Friday suffering a massive heart attack, the army announced. He was 59 years old.

General Joshi was the first chief of the million-strong army to die while in office. The person to replace him as chief of army staff has yet to be named.

The highly-decorated general complained of shortness of breath and restlessness and was taken to a military hospital at the Delhi Cantonment, an army spokesman said. He died at 11:20 a.m. (0550 GMT).

Gen. Joshi, who had become army chief on July 1, 1993, is survived by his wife, Manjula, and two sons.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma, supreme commander of the armed forces, expressed shock and grief at the

death of Gen. Joshi and praised his contribution to the armed forces.

"The army has lost a first-class chief and the nation a selfless soldier," Gen. Sharma said in a statement issued by the presidential palace.

Gen. Joshi, who was commissioned in 1954 in the armoured corps, has been steering the army through a continuing period of transition following the breakup of the Soviet Union, which was India's premier military ally.

He was director-general of operations at a critical time when the Indian Armed Forces fought Tamil separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka's northeast in 1987-90.

He commanded an armoured regiment in the 1971 conflict with Pakistan, which resulted in the birth of Bangladesh out of East Pakistan, and served on staff with the United Nations

Emergency Force in Gaza during 1961-62.

Gen. Joshi also served as India's military, naval and air advisor in the South Pacific region in 1973-76, and was concurrently accredited to Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Tonga.

He was a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service of the most exceptional order.

In a separate development, India's autonomous election commission has censured two cabinet colleagues of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao for attempting to sway voters ahead of key state polls, and said one of them should be sacked.

In two separate statements late Thursday, the commission said the ministers violated a model code of conduct it drew up to prevent politicians in office from influencing voters with sops.

## N. Korea gives speedy approval for IAEA team visit

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Thursday gave speedy approval for a U.N. watchdog team to monitor the freeze of its suspect nuclear reactors, as both sides got down to putting last month's pledges in Geneva into action.

As the approval was channeled through North Korean diplomats to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquarters in Vienna, a U.S. team was in Pyongyang discussing the neutralising of 8,000 spent fuel rods containing enough weapons-grade plutonium to make four or five bombs.

And in Washington, U.S. Japanese and South Korean officials were hammering out how to put together an international consortium to replace the North's reactors with safe new ones.

Analysts here were cautious on predicting smooth sailing during the initial flurry of moves to implement the Oct. 21 Geneva framework agreement designed to halt the Stalinist North's nuclear programme in its tracks.

But they said the quick start augured well as a baffle, at least for now, to possible Republican opposition to the accord, which has been widely criticised as involving a dangerously long time-span and lacking in fail-safe mechanisms.

Under the Geneva framework it will be at least five years before North Korea allows outside inspection of two suspect sites it describes as purely military but believed by U.S. experts to be uranium reprocessing centres.

Those inspections will take place just before the last key element of the new reactors, whose cost is estimated at some \$4 billion, are put in place.

Radio Pyongyang meanwhile said U.S. officials who arrived in North Korea for talks last Saturday, have for the first time visited the secretive Yongbyon nuclear complex 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang.

According to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, the five-man team began talks Monday and toured the complex for a first-hand look at the freeze Tuesday.

Pyeongyang said through KCNA that it implemented the freeze, its side of the bargain in Geneva, at the beginning of the month.

## Ukraine makes punitive move against Crimea

KIEV (R) — Ukraine took a first punitive measure against its pro-Russian Crimean peninsula Thursday by rescinding a long list of its laws, but kept tougher action in reserve to keep its separatist politicians in line.

The Ukrainian parliament, by a vote of 282 to 13, rescinded more than 40 laws passed in the autonomous peninsula and considered to be separatist and in violation of the national constitution.

"Today's decision is the last constitutional step before more radical moves," said Volodymyr Stretovich, who heads parliament's Legal Commission.

"That will mean all chess pieces thrown off the board and new elections in Crimea."

Nationalist members of parliament demanded tougher action against Crimea, where many politicians have openly called for reunification with Russia.

Some pointed out that Ukraine spends about \$1 billion a year in maintaining Crimea.

"Until we rescind the Crimean constitution, we will

merely keep issuing warnings," said nationalist Stepan Khmara. "We must dissolve the Crimean parliament and return Crimea to the status of a district."

Parliament's three-member extreme nationalist faction suggested dispatching troops to make Crimea toe the line.

Parliament may have acted cautiously to prevent stirring up passions ahead of President Leonid Kuchma's trip to the United States starting Saturday.

Deputies may also have wanted to avoid antagonising Moscow as Russia and Ukraine move slowly towards concluding a long overdue friendship treaty.

Crimea was run by Russia from the late 18th century until 1954, when Kremlin leader Nikita Khrushchev gave it to Soviet Ukraine as a "gift". About two-thirds of its 2.7 million residents are ethnic Russians.

The preferred holiday destination for both Tsars and Communist leaders, Crimea was given broad autonomy by post-Soviet Ukraine's new leaders in a bid to staunch pro-Russian sentiment.

## Thousands march in Athens to mark 1973 uprising

ATHENS (R) — Thousands of boisterous demonstrators, chanting anti-American slogans, marched through central Athens Thursday to commemorate a 1973 student uprising which led to the fall of a military junta.

"Remember the disgrace of the Americans," chanted a large crowd of black-clad students, who held aloft a red banner with anti-American slogans in Constitution Square.

The capital's main arteries were blocked by the march and broad avenues turned into a sea of banners and flags, mostly denouncing the fallen junta and the Americans who were seen as instrumental in keeping it in power.

Many Greeks accuse the United States of steadfastly supporting, and possibly even directing, a group of colonels who seized power in 1967 and ruled for seven years.

Thousands of Greeks were imprisoned or exiled by the junta, a bitter memory for many families.

Thousands of others, including Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, jailed by the junta for eight months, and President Constantine Karamanlis, fled and lived abroad.

Police had no estimate for the number of demonstrators in the march, which stretched

for several kilometres through the heart of Athens, but radio stations put the number well into the thousands.

Some 500 anarchist and about 200 neo-Nazi youths dispersed Friday after a night of rioting following a march to mark the 21st anniversary of a student uprising against the country's military regime.

The remaining anarchists left the building after police officials arranged to bus them out of the area. Overnight, youths had hurled petrol bombs and stones and destroyed three vans owned by private radio stations.

Some smashed windows in stores in the centre of Athens and set vehicles ablaze in a four-hour rampage.

Two people were slightly hurt in the unrest, as some 20 neo-Nazi youths from the organisation Chryssi Avghi (Golden Dawn) clashed with anarchists barricaded within the Polytechnic compound.

The demonstrators dispersed shortly before daybreak.

It was the first time neo-Nazi youths had taken part in such unrest in Greece.

The college authorities refused to allow police to enter the grounds of the Polytechnic and security forces were limited to lobbing teargas at the demonstrators from outside.

## Woman, pronounced dead, isn't

ALBANY, New York (R) — An 86-year-old woman was pronounced dead, placed in a body bag and packed in a morgue cooler for 90 minutes before someone realised she was still alive, local media reported. A morgue supervisor, retrieving the body of Mildred Clarke Wednesday for a funeral home, noticed her stomach moving and realised she was breathing. Albany County Coroner Philip Furie told an Albany, New York, television station. She had been examined by Fire Department rescue squad members and pronounced dead by the coroner, the Albany Times Union newspaper reported. Ms. Clarke was conscious and listed in serious condition Thursday at the Albany Medical Centre. "She certainly appeared as if she had expired," the coroner was quoted as saying in the newspaper. "She was cold as ice and she was stiff." Her body had been placed in the hospital morgue cooler, normally set at 40 degrees Fahrenheit, (4 degrees Celsius) the coroner told the media. Ms. Clarke is a widow who has lived at a senior citizen apartment complex for 15 years, local reports said. Albany County does not require its coroners to be licensed physicians. Mr. Furie, an insurance salesman, was elected to his post.

## Whitney Houston hounded by bad press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — First came a refusal to answer to questions at news conferences and photo opportunities. Then there was a report of ill behaviour toward hotel staff. Now South African media are looking for any reason to denounce pop superstar Whitney Houston despite two packed concerts that had tens of thousands of fans — black and white — dancing and cheering. A third show in Cape Town Saturday also promises to draw a large crowd, despite ticket prices of 30 rand to 150 rand (\$8.45 to \$42.25) — more than a day's pay for many blacks. But news reports continue to focus on the negative. The state-owned South African Broadcasting Corp. reported that Ms. Houston refused to visit a dying girl who wished to meet her. Not necessarily so, said Patricia Pinnock, manager of Reach For A Dream, a company that helps fulfill wishes of sick or disadvantaged children. "She didn't exactly refuse to see her," Ms. Pinnock said. "There's still a possibility of a meeting." After the Johannesburg show, which drew more than 70,000 people who appeared delighted with the performance, newspaper and radio reports concentrated on a large number of muggings and robberies that occurred. Ms. Houston's organisers blamed the negative publicity on South Africa's years of isolation due to apartheid. The nation, and particularly the service industry and news media, have little experience dealing with world-class acts that require stringent planning, they said. "South Africa has never experienced a superstar of Whitney's magnitude," said Roxy Meade, spokeswoman for Ms. Houston.

## Italy's former communists give out Bible

ROME (R) — Karl Marx, who called religion the opium of the masses, may have been spinning in his grave Wednesday as the newspaper of Italy's former Communists gave out the Bible to help boost sales. L'Unita, which was the organ of the West's largest Marxist party before the fall of communism in 1989, gave its readers the new testament in a paperback volume with purple covers. It was sandwiched in an edition whose lead article offered readers something Marx would have been much more comfortable with — a general strike called for next month to defend workers' rights.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) cast off Marxism and changed its name to the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) in 1991. It remains Italy's largest leftist political force.

Pope John Paul II received the newspaper's editor Walter Veltroni in an audience at the Vatican Wednesday and told him he appreciated the initiative. "The values of the Gospel have a perennial significance," the Polish Pope told Mr. Veltroni.

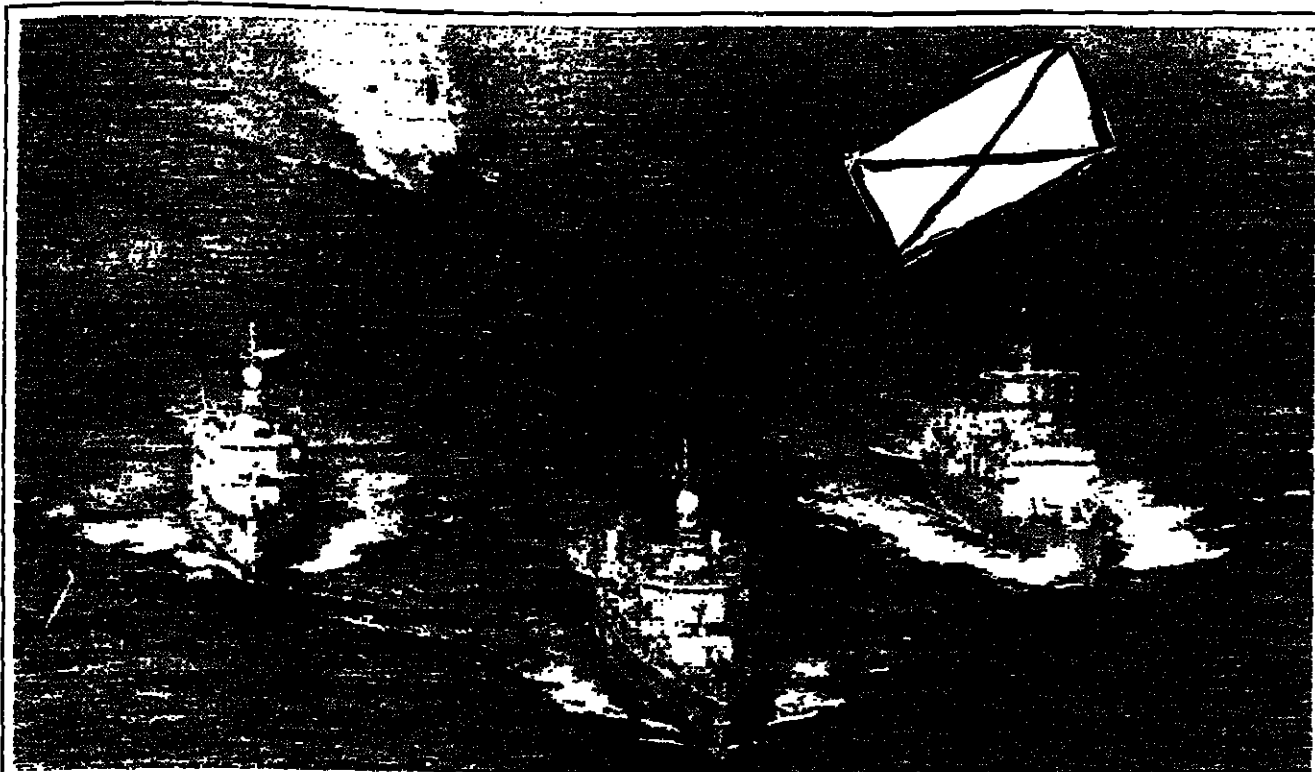
Cosa Nostra operates all over Italy and in the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Russia.

Meanwhile, the Italian mafia, historically associated with the rural backlands of Sicily, has turned into a modern crime "business" through



Woman, pronounced dead, isn't

ALBANY, New York — An Albany woman, pronounced dead, was found alive in a hospital in Albany, New York, on Friday. The woman, who was found in a hospital in Albany, New York, on Friday, was pronounced dead by a doctor in Albany, New York, on Friday. The woman, who was found in a hospital in Albany, New York, on Friday, was pronounced dead by a doctor in Albany, New York, on Friday.



AEGEAN EXERCISES: Three Greek frigates (center) and two Macedonian (right) are followed by USS destroyer Peterson during an air and sea exercise in the south Aegean and Creta Sea code named Niritis 94. The exercise, that also includes American, English, French, Spanish and Italian ships, coincides with the Turkish Seawolf 94 exercise in the north Aegean Sea. Turkey has threatened Greece with war if it implements an international law, that went into effect on Nov. 16, allowing it to extend its territorial waters from 6 to 12 miles (AFP photo)

Police surround cathedral after E. Timor protests

DILI, East Timor (AFP) — Scores of riot police backed by troops laid siege to the Roman Catholic cathedral here Friday after more than a hundred young East Timorese staged another violent protest to demand an end to Indonesian rule. The three-hour standoff — the fourth disturbance to rock the enclave in the past week — ended only after the Roman Catholic Bishop of Dili, Carlos Ximenes Belo, negotiated an end to the siege. The demonstrators were later bussed home, an independent source and a military spokesman said. The protest began when between 400 and 500 people gathered outside the church to attend a mass, in full view of the world's media. Before the mass could start, East Timorese youths unfurled banners and placards demanding the end to Indonesia's 18 year long occupation of the territory and calling for the release of the jailed guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, an independence activist. A volley of stones were thrown over the church yard's wall by figures who appeared to be Indonesian police in civilian clothes, triggering an exchange with the protesters. Police fired several canisters of tear gas before reinforcements were called in and the church yard sealed off. Foreign reporters who had taken the rare chance to visit Dili after covering the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit were chased down the street by club-wielding riot police and took refuge in an Indonesian family's home. There were no arrests of

foreign journalists, but an AFP reporter was threatened by a policeman brandishing a rattan and an AFP photographer suffered a slight shoulder wound after being hit by a rock. Several people were injured in the demonstration, including a suspected informer for Indonesian security. Riot police sealed off the street with lines of shields at nightfall and truckloads of troops were deployed along side streets while Bishop Belo negotiated an end to the standoff, said an AFP reporter. Buses and trucks were brought into the church compound and the remaining East Timorese, numbering about 140, were taken home, an independent source said. Major Ladean Simbolon, the East Timor military spokesman, said: "It is all over, the cathedral is empty. No one has been arrested. No one has been wounded." The latest violence in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony seized by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed a year later in defiance of the United Nations, erupted last Saturday. The week's unrest has led to at least one death and 22 arrests. The disturbances, coupled with the ongoing occupation of the U.S. embassy compound by 29 Timorese demonstrators, severely embarrassed President Suharto as he hosted a meeting that brought together the leaders of APEC's 18 member states. On Wednesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton met with Mr. Suharto and appealed for Indonesia to relax its control over the territory, but Mr. Suharto, a former general, offered no concessions.

Tamil rebels revoke truce after death of top cadre

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Friday revoked their seven-day unilateral ceasefire a day after the army killed a top cadre in the island's north-east, Tamil sources said. The LTTE has informed its cadres that the truce declared last Saturday to mark the inauguration of Chandrika Kumaratunga as Sri Lanka's new president had been revoked Friday, the sources said. A military source confirmed the Tigers' action, saying: "We have LTTE interest in announcing that the ceasefire is off. Our men are ready for any surprise attacks by them." "Troops anyway have been on alert since they declared this so-called ceasefire," the military source added. Government troops Thursday seized an automatic weapon, two hand grenades and a cyanide capsule from the dead LTTE rebel, identified as Malli and holding the rank of "lieutenant-colonel,"

military sources said. Hardcore Tiger guerrillas carry cyanide capsules, which they consume to avoid being captured alive by security forces. The LTTE militant was believed to be on a reconnaissance mission when he was gunned down, the sources said. The killing of the Tiger militant was the latest military response to the unilateral ceasefire. The military has not reciprocated the LTTE truce and has claimed to have killed five LTTE rebels in the east of the country over the past four days. The rebels have also accused the navy of not observing the truce by shelling coastal areas in the rebel-controlled north and killing four Tamil fishermen. The LTTE's overseas propaganda unit had already begun accusing the government of not being interested in the peace process by not responding positively to the rebel truce, Tamil sources said.

Nepalese Communists edge closer to power

KATHMANDU (AFP) — The Communist opposition edged closer to winning Nepal's general election Friday as ballot counting continued. The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) had 73 of the 149 seats counted, at the latest toll given. It already exceeds the number obtained in the country's first elections in 1991 with 55 still to be decided. The president of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC), which had 54 seats, conceded Friday that his party would not be able to govern alone. But Krishna Prasad Bhattarai added: "Nevertheless, without the Nepali Congress, no government can be formed and that is also obvious." And with polling having to be rescheduled in at least 30 constituencies around the country because of irregularities, no definitive makeup of the next government will be decided until next week. But the NCP-UML led the NC in 10 constituencies were counting was going ahead. And it can count on a smaller Communist faction which had four seats assured. Despite the spectacular Communist gains, many analysts still believe they will get the 103 seats required to form a government. The Communists had 69 seats in the parliament dissolved in May. The NC had 110 seats. The NCP-UML will probably have to form a coalition with the Congress or the right-wing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), which had 4 seats in the partial toll, analysts said. NCP-UML Central Committee member, Pradip Nepal, was confident of victory. He acknowledged that a coalition was possible if his party did not get a clear majority of seats. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala appears to have paid the price for criticism of his government's management of the economy and corruption. Though he regained the two seats he was allowed to contest, the NC had some notable election defeats. Speaker of the lower house Daman Nath Dhungana and chief whip Tarani Dutta Chautauk were both defeated. Thousands of jubilant Communists in the Kathmandu Valley, where all 12 seats went to the Communists, went on a victory parade Thursday night chanting: "Death to Koirala," "Down with Koirala," "Villain and traitor Koirala quit Nepal." International observers said late Thursday that Tuesday's polling, in which two people were killed and 15 injured, was marred by irregularities. A preliminary report said most of the irregularities were committed by the NC. But it added that this did not mean that the "parliament elected would not reflect the wishes of the Nepalese people." The Communists have sought to reassert Nepal's international donor countries, that it supports the monarchy and would run a fully democratic government. They say they want continued good friendship with giant neighbours India and China and that safeguarding Nepal's national interest will be the top priority. NCP-UML Chairman Man Mohan Adhikari told AFP that any Communist government would pursue a liberal economic policy and encourage industry.

Serb planes bomb Bihac — U.N.

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Two Serb planes, operating out of Serb-held Croatia, Friday bombed the U.N.-declared safe area of Bihac town, causing a number of casualties, the U.N. Protection Force and Sarajevo radio reported. UNPROFOR in Zagreb confirmed the air raid on Bihac was carried out by two planes flying a very low level in a westerly direction which fired at least one rocket or missile. In Sarajevo meanwhile, UNPROFOR reported that a seven-year-old boy was killed and his mother seriously wounded by a Serbian sniper fire outside the Holiday Inn Hotel. Another passerby was also wounded in the shooting. UNPROFOR said the planes' altitude of 60 metres explained why NATO radar failed to pick up the aircraft. In a similar attack early this month, a Serb fighter-bomber fired missiles at an ammunition factory in Bihac town. Sarajevo Radio, for its part, said the planes dropped fragmentation bombs near the centre of town, killing and wounding inhabitants. As the attack was taking place, at around 11 a.m. (1000 GMT), UNPROFOR civil spokesman Thant Myint-U reaffirmed in Sarajevo that there would be "a military response (to) any sustained attack on the (Bihac) safe area and direct attacks on U.N. personnel." He also voiced "concern, anxiety and frustration" at the growing number of violations by both Bosnian government and Serb forces of U.N.-mediated agreements in Sarajevo, following a series of tit-for-tat shelling. U.N. officials were in urgent meetings "to prevent the sort of spiralling violence in Sarajevo which would kill any chance of future peace," he said. He also condemned the invasion, launched from the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia, saying that even if the U.N. was unable to prove Croatian Serb involvement "their support for this invasion is clearly unacceptable." The U.N. earlier blamed Krajina Serbs for shelling the enclave and Muslim rebels who fought their way into the enclave Wednesday, striking at it from the north and from west. There was heavy fighting Thursday around the government-held town of Velika Kladusa in the north of the pocket. The town, while surrounded, had not fallen to the invading Croatian Serb and Muslim rebel forces, UNPROFOR spokesman Lt.-Col. Tim Spicer said here. Some 1,200 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are currently deployed in the enclave, including 346 in Sika Kladusa, a town now surrounded by Abdic forces in the north, and 161 in the Bihac town safe area, to the south. Fighting also continued to the immediate east of Bihac town safe area, with government forces locked in battle with Bosnian Serb forces who were attempting to recapture the high ground overlooking the city. U.N. civil and military representatives meanwhile aimed to meet Friday with rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, who has thrown in his lot with the Krajina Serbs after facing defeat last summer at the hands of the 5th Corps government forces in the pocket. The meeting follows warnings by the U.N. Security Council in New York against cross border attacks from Serb-held Croatia and threats of air strikes by NATO if the lives of U.N. peacekeepers or that of civilians in the U.N.-

declared safe area of Bihac town were put at risk. Meanwhile, the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Friday suspended the humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo after a Canadian plane was fired at Thursday. In Paris Friday Britain, France and Russia called for unity of the five-nation contact group on Bosnia and tried to minimise the tension caused by a U.S. decision to stop enforcing an arms embargo against Bosnia. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe met for an hour with his counterparts from Britain and Russia Douglas Hurd and Andrei Kozyrev. Mr. Hurd repeated calls for an early meeting of the group. Germany, which is also a contact group member, has proposed the meeting be held on Dec. 2. The U.S. is the fifth member of the group. The U.N. Protection Force expressed dissatisfaction over the uncooperativeness of the Bosnian Serbs after their commander turned down UNPROFOR requests to meet him, a U.N. commander said here Friday. French General Herve Gobillard, commander of UNPROFOR in Sarajevo and the acting U.N. commander of Bosnia in the absence of General Michael Rose, in his Friday communique to the press said UNPROFOR "strongly deplores the uncooperative attitude" of the Bosnian Serbs. The communique came after "repeated requests" by Gen. Gobillard to meet with the commander of Bosnian Serbs, General Ratko Mladic, were turned down. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the deteriorating military situation in Sarajevo, said the statement. On Thursday Gen. Gobillard accused both sides of firing at each other in the Sarajevo area. The Bosnian presidency building was hit Thursday. Gen. Gobillard "urgently" requested another meeting Friday with Gen. Mladic, the statement said. "If this meet is also refused it will be taken as a sign that the Bosnian Serb Army is no longer interested in further cooperation with UNPROFOR," Gen. Gobillard said. Meanwhile the self-proclaimed Krajina Serb government in southwestern Croatia has rejected an accord with Croatia on economic questions, the Croatian Serb spokesman for foreign affairs Milan Babic said Friday. Mr. Babic told the secessionist Serb News Agency, Iskra, monitored in Belgrade, that his government late Thursday rejected the accord although its Prime Minister Borisav Mikelic had proposed accepting it under certain conditions. Croatia had accepted draft accord, brokered by the international conference on former Yugoslavia, Wednesday. Representatives of the Krajina Serbs, who control around a quarter of Croatian territory, and the Croatian authorities met at Zagreb Airport Tuesday for a third session of talks since contacts resumed last month. Geneva conference co-chairman Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg and their respective deputies, Gerd Ahrens and Kai Eide, attended the meeting, along with the U.S. and Russian ambassadors to Zagreb, Peter Galbraith and Leonid Kerestjanski. Mr. Galbraith said Wednesday the accord covered the restoration of water and power supplies, the repair of an oil pipeline and the reopening of roads.

Angola rebels refuse to sign peace pact

NEGAGE, Angola (AFP) — A top UNITA leader here threatened bush warfare in reprisal for the Angolan army's seizure of rebel-held towns and alleged truce violations, and a UNITA spokesman said Friday that the rebels will not sign a peace pact. "We cannot go to Lusaka, because government forces are preventing us from leaving by shelling us," John Marques Kakumba said. Gen. Dembo said UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who is due to sign, was in the region of Huambo, his former base captured by regular troops this month. Despite a pullout by UNITA's delegation to negotiations in Lusaka, a spokesman in Luanda said President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos still planned to sign the peace pact in the Zambian capital Lusaka. UNITA's representative in West Africa Friday said in Abidjan that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UN-

ITA) will not sign a peace pact with the Angolan government as scheduled Sunday. "We cannot go to Lusaka, because government forces are preventing us from leaving by shelling us," John Marques Kakumba said. Gen. Dembo said UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who is due to sign, was in the region of Huambo, his former base captured by regular troops this month. Despite a pullout by UNITA's delegation to negotiations in Lusaka, a spokesman in Luanda said President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos still planned to sign the peace pact in the Zambian capital Lusaka. UNITA's representative in West Africa Friday said in Abidjan that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UN-

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## Looming troubles in Palestine

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin has upped the ante for the PLO when he declared during his tour of the U.S. that the PLO-Israeli talks on holding Palestinian elections will have to be put on hold until the Palestinian National Council amends the part of its covenant that calls for the destruction of Israel. Israel had in fact raised the issue before but it knew and accepted that the time was not ripe yet to affect the necessary change. The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, has been waiting for realising significant gains on the road to self-rule before raising the Israeli request before his Palestinian constituency. Arafat must have calculated that on the face of things and in view of slow pace of Israeli-PLO negotiations, he would not be able to muster sufficient support within his organisation to meet Israeli calls for deleting all objectionable references in the charter. The crucial question that arises now is why Rabin has chosen to reactivate this subject at a time when Arafat is beleaguered more than ever before, whether by the mounting challenges from Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as by the slow pace of international funding for his embryonic Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Recent "slips of the tongue" by several Palestinian officials, including the PLO chairman himself, which referred to Israel as the "enemy," coming on top of the failure of the PLO to deliver the Palestinian people, must have played an important role in Rabin's decision to raise the stakes for the Palestinian leadership. With the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip yesterday and the lack of positive change in the West Bank, Arafat is ill put to silence the opposition within the Palestinian ranks or amend the PLO charter.

Thus the fault for the deterioration in the Israeli-PLO relations goes both ways. On the one hand Israel has been too slow in its peace talks with the Palestinians depriving them of early peace dividends. On the other hand, the international community which showed considerable generosity on paper to the Palestinians has been procrastinating over the transfer of funds to their empty coffers. This vicious circle may end up causing uncontrolled explosions in the Palestinian territories as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak cautioned Thursday. It seems that unless a higher level of statesmanship surfaces in the PLO-Israeli negotiations, there could be major setbacks for the entire peace process.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY PAYING a visit to Qatar on Saturday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali opens a new chapter in the relations between Jordan and the Arab Gulf states, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Jordanian-Gulf relations, although strong over the past decades, are in need of stimulation and further bolstering in all domains, and they should be founded on new concepts which aim at safeguarding all parties' interests, said Sultan Al Hattab. The writer said Qatar's relations have remained warm with Jordan despite the strains caused by the Gulf crisis because Doha and Amman have always been intent on maintaining brotherly ties and sought mutual respect throughout the past years. Jordan is keen on closing Arab ranks and bolstering inter-Arab relations, bearing in mind the fact that there is a vital need for the Arabs to form their own economic bloc so as to cater to the rapid economic developments around the world and enhance the Arab Nations' economies, said the writer. After ensuring the peace treaty with Israel, which is bound to pave the way for security and stability in the region said the writer, Jordan is now turning its attention towards re-establishing the strongest possible relations with the Arab sister states.

ISSA SHUEIBI, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised the government's reduction of the customs duty on cars and other commodities as unsatisfactory to the consumers and the merchants alike. The writer said that the reduction in the duty on cars was only marginal, not in favour of the limited income groups. It is the rich and the groups with high income that can still afford to buy the cars and also benefit from the marginal reduction in customs duty, said the writer. On the other hand, the reduction in customs duty has not affected the prices of commodities which are in the merchants' stores, which means all commodities included in the list of items whose customs duty has been reduced would not be affected for a long time and the consumers will continue to buy them according to previous tariffs. He said that the government is doing nothing to stem the greed of merchants who tend to benefit through manipulation whenever the prices are affected downwards or upwards. Citing the example of coffee, the writer said that when the world prices shot up, the local merchants raised their prices though they had sufficient amounts of coffee in store, and when the world prices went down the local merchants continued to sell at the former high prices.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Arafat's failure to deliver fuelling conflict in self-rule areas

M. KAHIL



SIX MONTHS after entering the occupied Gaza Strip and setting up the autonomous government, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is today fighting hard to keep the self-rule on track while not relinquishing his autocratic style of leadership. As far as the Palestinian on the street is concerned, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has failed to deliver, whether in terms of improved living conditions or in asserting Palestinian independence. Anti-peace violence is growing and Mr. Arafat seems to be at a loss how to tread between Israeli pressure to crack down on the hardline groups and his own need to maintain a minimum level of cordiality with the hardliners.

By and large, there is truth in Mr. Arafat's assertions that the delay in receiving international aid could be partly blamed for the rise in Palestinian frustration, thus his demand that funds be directly pumped into the occupied territories is also justified. But then, the problem is quite simple and clear: The style of governance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has not changed a bit to instil confidence in the World Bank, the coordinator of international aid for the Palestinians, that the funds would be used for the purpose they are intended for in the first place. Indeed, the World Bank could have done better, but the main blame lies on the PNA itself.

Two or three months should have been enough for the self-rule authority to realise that there was something seriously wrong in the way things were going and understand and appreciate that unless it changes its ways and accommodate the international community's need for transparency and accountability the main component of autonomy — financial support — would not be forthcoming.

Even today, months after months of repeated international calls for accountability and transparency, the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) has not done much to meet the conditions of the World Bank. And, by the look of things, every day that passes brings in international apathy to the plight of the Palestinians, an apathy that would be translated into refusal to honour the pledges of aid that donor countries made on Oct. 1, 1993, in Washington.

Equally serious is the spiral of violence in the occupied territories, prompting many analysts to conclude that a Palestinian civil war could be in the making if the situation is not addressed, a fact that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres acknowledged recently.

What Mr. Arafat has achieved so far belittles the sacrifices of those Palestinians who gave their lives for something much better than what the PNA president could offer to his constituents today and the anguish of the Palestinian prisoners who underwent physical and psychological torture in Israeli hands to help advance the cause of independence and a dignified life.

One could hear the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories wondering what the alternatives they have to ensure that the peace process is not undermined and the declaration of principles is implemented. Needless to say some of them have been alienated from the self-rule authority, or more precisely, Mr. Arafat.

Indeed, there are no magic solutions to the problem. But the PLO chairman could help the situation by changing his way of ruling his people. By all accounts, he has tightened his autocratic way of decision-making. The most damaging part of the equation is the fact that senior PNA officials, many of them pragmatic and down to earth, discuss and

reach agreements with governments and other external parties and organisations on how to organise things, only to face rejection by the PNA chairman. It is the credibility of those PNA officials that is being eroded as a result. Quite simply, there is no assurance that when a PNA official sits down and negotiates things with anyone that the agreements that are reached will be respected and implemented by his or her own side. As a result, the entire process of developing the economy and politics of the Palestinians is a farce, to say the least.

On the Jordanian-Israeli front, the controversy over Jerusalem appears to have been put to rest after the Kingdom's pledge that it was ready to handover the Islamic holy shrines there to the Palestinians after they secure their territorial and political rights in the occupied territories. But it is naive to think that it was only the issue of Jerusalem that was behind Mr. Arafat's vehement criticism of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. For one thing, it was clear that the PNA leader was upset that the treaty stole the limelight of the peace process away from the Palestinian scene. Another fear of Mr. Arafat was apparently that the focus of international donors and investors would shift to Jordan from the Palestinian territories.

Well, we cannot hold Mr. Arafat's hand and continue to pacify and comfort him for ever. Jordan had to defend and ensure its own national interests and the peace treaty with Israel is entirely a bilateral issue between the Kingdom and its neighbour. If Mr. Arafat or anyone else gets upset over it, all we can say is, tough luck.

If anything, some of the provisions in the peace treaty

are so carefully drafted that there is not the slightest suggestion, practically or otherwise, that the Kingdom was encroaching upon Palestinian rights or sought to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian rights. Instances are many: Jordan refused to discuss with Israel the Kingdom's borders with Israel, and it excluded the Palestinian share of water in its agreement of water with the Jewish state (wonder why Jordan got only 215 million cubic metres of water while everyone was talking about 377 million cubic metres?). And Jordan also refused to consider the King Hussein Bridge as a point of access between the Kingdom and Israel since the western side of it is Palestinian territory and therefore cannot serve as a crossing between two other sovereign countries without the consent of the Palestinians.

Of course, that does not negate the traditional relationship between the peoples from the two banks of the River Jordan, and hence our concern over the course of the autonomy agreement. We stand to suffer as much as the Palestinians do in the event of things turning worse in the occupied territories.

It is not too late for Mr. Arafat to correct the situation. The starting point, indeed, is shedding his autocratic way of ruling and delegation of authority and responsibility to people who know and can deliver. Then comes closer coordination with the Arab World, starting with Jordan.

But coordination should not remain limited to agreements and handshakes. There should be a clear appreciation of the links that bind the two peoples and of Jordanian sincerity when it says it wants Mr. Arafat to achieve success in his endeavours to reach the goal of independence.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Israeli aggressive measures responsible for rise of violence in occupied territories

Reviewed By Elias Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic dailies last week gave focused on the developments in the occupied Palestinian lands, the peace process, Iraq and domestic issues.

ARAFAT HIJAZI, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, drew attention to the danger inherent in Israel's partition of the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, saying that the move would undermine the whole peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The writer said that the partition constitutes and aggression on the Arabs and Muslims everywhere because the mosque is a sacred shrine for them in general and the Palestinians in particular.

Not sufficing itself with planting Jewish communities inside the Arab city of Hebron, the Israeli government has now taken a very dangerous step in the occupied city by installing a Jewish synagogue in the Muslim shrine, said the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that talking about resistance activities inside the occupied lands as terrorist actions would do Israel any good, nor would the severe measures which the Israelis are imposing on the Arab population following the resistance operations. He said that Israel was exploiting the peace process through perpetuating the occupation of Arab territories, which

has lasted for 27 years so far and is committing practices that are not conducive to peace and stability. Only by ending the occupation and the presence of Jewish settlements can resistance operations end, and peace be established, he added.

Taher Al Adwan, said that the Jihad Al Islami's latest resistance operation in Gaza was a natural reaction to the killing by Israeli agents of one of the Jihad Al Islami's prominent figures, Hani Abed. The writer in Al Dustour said that Israel had earlier announced that it was plotting to get rid of the Islamists leaders and it was natural for the Islamists groups to conclude that it was Israeli agents who murdered Mr. Abed. Under the Oslo agreement, said the writer, Israel has pledged to end Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip but as the settlers stayed there, the resistance groups have the right to pursue their activities. Should the Israelis persist in their present policies concerning the treatment of the Palestinians and the maintaining of Jewish settlements, the chances of peace and security will remain grim.

For every action there is a more violent reaction, said Saleh Al Qalab, a writer in Al Dustour with reference to the rising level of violence in the occupied territories. The writer said that the Israelis have in

the past tried to stem resistance by murdering Arab leaders but the attempts were all in vain and the resistance increased in intensity. Through violence, Israel can never achieve peace and security for the Jewish communities and with the presence of Jewish settlements, acts of resistance are bound to continue, said Mr. Qalab.

Tareq Masraweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the peace process was bound to be delayed and obstructed largely because the United States is dragging its feet over the question of achieving peace between Syria and Israel. The writer said that by delaying U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region to play a shuttle diplomacy between Damascus and Tel Aviv, Washington is delaying the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two sides.

While Israel and the United States are blaming the Syrians for the delay, everyone realises that it is Israel that is obstructing progress, he said.

According to Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, the Republicans' domination of the U.S. Congress would delay the peace process. The U.S. administration is more likely to try to pursue the peace process in the Middle East but the Republican-dominated Congress is likely to block this move so as to deprive the Democrats

of any achievements, said the writer. On the whole, U.S. President Bill Clinton will from now on be in a relatively weak position vis-a-vis the U.S. Congress.

Samih Al Maaitah, a columnist in Al Dustour, addressed the challenges facing the Jordanian government in the wake of the signing the peace treaty with Israel.

Noting that the negotiations with the Israeli side were continuing over the implementation of the treaty's provisions, the writer said that Israel is most likely to exercise pressures on Jordan in a way that aims at securing the maximum advantages for the Jewish state. The writer said that the rapid normalisation of relations between the two sides is not in favour of Jordan because at this stage the Zionists try to exploit every move as quickly as possible and try to impose their hegemony on various aspects and sectors in Jordan.

He said that the Jordanians ought to show more interest in maintaining the strongest possible ties with the Palestinians and to defend the Palestinian endeavours to end the occupation as a priority preceding normalisation.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, tackled the situation in the wake of Iraq's recognition of Kuwait saying that the United States was adamant in its position and will continue to place obstacles in the way of terminating the U.N. sanctions on the Iraqi people despite Baghdad's total compliance with the U.N. resolutions. The writer

said that Washington has its own interests to protect and it believes that the sanctions would enable it to achieve that goal and ensure continued oil flow from the Gulf region. But, the writer said, Baghdad has now won France and Russia to its side and opened a breach in the international coalition, which would eventually help end the embargo.

Tareq Masraweh, paid tribute to Russia for seeking to bring peace between Iraq and Kuwait and at the same time ensure an end to the embargo on the Iraqi people. The writer said that though Kuwait and other Gulf countries could still be adamant in their position, one can count on Moscow to play its cards well and convince the United States and the West of the need to ease the sanctions.

Mr. Masraweh said that with the change of heart in Moscow and Paris about the sanctions, Washington's hold on matters related to Iraq has obviously weakened, especially as the end of the sanctions would bring about many advantages to Russia.

By refusing to end the embargo on the Iraqi people, despite Baghdad's open recognition of Kuwait, the United States has exposed its true face to the world, showing its hostility towards the Arabs in general and determination to cause the demise of the Iraqi population, said Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i. The writer said that perhaps it is in Washington's interest to maintain the sanctions but definitely it is not in the interest of the Kuwaitis and the other Gulf people to see the sanctions causing the death of innocent Iraqi people. The United States is trying to find new pretext for perpetuating the sanc-

tions on Iraq but the Arab states ought to counter this move and respond to the call of reason and save their kinsmen from extermination.

Another columnist echoed the call on the Arab states to end their embargo on Iraq now that Baghdad is ready for reconciliation after recognising Kuwait. Ahmad Dabbas, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that Baghdad's compliance with the U.N. resolutions has prompted Russia and France to move towards ending the sanctions. Perhaps Russia has its own reasons and is seeking to safeguard its own interests, but its moves are also benefiting to the starving Iraqi people, said the writer. He said that the Arab states should take the lead in ending the embargo, which has caused so much sufferings to their brothers and sisters.

Mohammad Subeichi criticised the government's decision for reducing customs duty tariffs on non-essential goods. The writer in Al Dustour said that the government has reduced tariffs on goods consumed by the rich and not the poor who had wished that the prices of basic commodities would drop. The writer said that the majority of the Jordanian people would not go hungry if the prices of cosmetics and artificial flowers and chestnut, remained high.

Another columnist echoed the same view, saying that the people had wished the government would bring down the prices of flour, sugar, medicine and fuel. Samir Hiyari said that while the prices of basic commodities are continuing to rise, the government chose to reduce the prices of non-essential goods like nuts, snuffs, cosmetics and other non-necessary goods.





fracted that there is no possibility of otherwise than the complete Palestinian rights on a sovereign Palestinian entity. The Knesset, in collusion with Israel's King, excluded the Palestinians from the pact with the Jewish Agency. The 15 million Arabs, including about 5 million who refused to recognize the pact, are left as a factor between the King and the Jews. The King would like to have the Arabs serve as a buffer between himself and the Jews without the Jews' consent. The Jews will not agree to this, and the people of the Arab world will not permit the Arabs to be used in this manner. We stand against the event of their use.

SA  
The Mr. Avneri Committee is an ancient institution of authoritarianism and an attempt to divide the Arab World. It should not exist. There should be no Arab and the two peoples, Jew and Arab, should reach the goal

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## Features

## Russia's active Gulf policy predicated on concern for security of its 'backyard'

**By Victor Posavalyuk**

I THINK that Iraq's decision to recognise Kuwait and its sovereignty over its oil fields summarises the conclusions of this article which I had prepared earlier in order to explain the initiative we launched during the recent crisis in the Gulf.

Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, is part of a wider process, as I understand, and I think the swirl of reactions stirred by Iraq's manoeuvre near the Kuwaiti border have calmed now. Thus there appears a possibility to, and a need for, calm talk about what happened and what might happen, as well as an end to the ongoing behind-the-scenes drama that started after Iraq occupied Kuwait in August of 1990.

Russia's actions, especially the visit to Iraq by the First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, and then Minister Andre Kozyrev himself, were met with immediate, harsh and contradictory reactions. Amongst them there were many positive reactions and some were hasty, and even nervous, comments, and at times outright criticism. I even heard jealous remarks asking how Russia could have its own initiatives. I am sure that these transient shades and scenes have, in general, become part of the past. And instead of misunderstandings, the desire to interact and cooperate have resurfaced. I here

refer to the Russian minister who was all through his life in touch with his American counterparts as well as the foreign ministers of Britain, France, China and other superpowers.

Let me start by Iraq's latest manoeuvres. Russia had condemned them and explicitly said in the first statement issued by it that the threatening language of the warnings to Kuwait and other states was rejected.

I now move to talk about Moscow's political methodology these days, especially that its motives were interpreted in various forms that it is not ruled out that these interpretations are untrue and inconvenient in spirit. The most common of these interpretations was the one claiming that Moscow's main priority was to have Baghdad pay back debts to Moscow, estimated at several billion dollars. These bills were discussed by one side after another addressed by commentators and commentators. The issue was portrayed as if Mr. Kozirev had headed towards Baghdad to get these billions in the shortest time possible.

In my belief, this was a superficial assumption about the motives that made the Russian leadership and the minister to personally carry out his very complicated tour. The issue was more critical and sensitive. Russia is a superpower that shoulders the responsibility

of security in this explosive area and areas geographically close of it. It is not a remote area in the sense that we can allow ourselves to overlook political games happening in it. It is an area close to our southern borders and the reverberation of events there are clearly felt in our political life, including the domestic one. Thus our main job was to guarantee security by converting efforts into a political race. I say more than that because we long talked in Baghdad. We had not discussed the issue of debts because there were other inflammable issues that required an immediate solution.

It is natural that Iraq's debts to Russia are something that is part of our national interests and we are not ignoring this issue and we will seek to guarantee circumstances that will ensure that Russia gets back money that was spent then. But that is not our main motive for the time being. The basic motive is to ensure security and stability. And the existence of an explosive conflict near our borders is a direct harm for us.

The superficial interpretation of our motives is clearly taking place as relations between Russia and the Gulf states are being established and enhanced. This appears to be an equivalent to enhancing ties with Iraq and regaining the debts in the stage following

the lifting of the sanctions. Here, I would like to mention that Moscow is now making comprehensive and large-scale preparations for the tour by Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin to the Gulf region soon.

At this axis we have what we pride ourselves in and do not want to lose. But I do not want to have one of the two axes as an adversary to the other. If we talk about the future, Russia is a large country, and this is clear about its people openness to the promising and rich Gulf region.

Now I will deal with the outcome of the visit. I am confident that no one will be able to prove to me that the results obtained by Mr. Kozyrev in Baghdad are not substantial. The official statement issued after the meeting with the Iraqi president included for the first time a subject that was formulated in such clarity and officialdom about Iraq's readiness to resolve the question of recognising Kuwait's sovereignty and borders in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 833 and in a positive way — and, I reiterate, in accordance with Resolution 833. And there are no doubts by any objective analyst that this was a serious progress. Another thing is that Iraq had to declare it officially. But Russia has and will exert efforts in this field also. When we had finished coordinating the text of the joint

statement, the radio and television stations in Baghdad halted their broadcasts and the Iraqis for the first time heard this clear formula expressing the readiness of their leadership to recognize Kuwait, which is an independent state and is not the 19th Iraqi province.

Often a question shedding suspicion over Russia's attempts is asked: Do you trust Iraq when implementing your policies and what are your justifications? I think the way the question is asked is not right, meaning that confidence in politics is something idealistic. If "confidence" was not supported by practical procedures as those which were carried out in Europe within the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation.

With regard to Iraq, the Security Council resolutions have, after the known incidents, placed it within very strict frameworks. And these are still forcing it to implement the series of resolutions, including those related to liquidating its military programmes, mass production of weapons and missiles, etc. Within this context, I believe that a long-term monitoring is an effective and dependable method, especially that it has been carried out at a large scale over the past few years by highly qualified international experts and that it utilises the most recent technologies. This

monitoring should be coupled with pressure on Baghdad (and Russia will be the first to apply it) concerning its recognition of Kuwait's independence and its international borders.

When discussing all this, Russia does not talk about an immediate lifting of the sanctions. In this, there is an unintentional error or distortion of facts. Russia refers to the need to start operating the monitoring system (and I stress here that this system is not presented to you as a conditional, firm procedure and one of the precise monitoring procedures on the way to the full implementation of the U.N. resolutions). We do not propose the ending of the sanctions, but the start of a testing period. After it ends, and in cases that Ralph Ekius' committee confirms that Baghdad fully and honestly abides by the U.N. resolutions, the Security Council can commence debating the issue of lifting the oil embargo, and not all the sanctions. That means the distance ahead is still long.

It is like to note that Mr. Kozirev and his first deputy held intensive talks about the missing Kuwaitis. I have participated in negotiations held in Moscow with a Kuwaiti delegation that included people looking for missing relatives. One of the delegation's members is looking for two of his brothers. Then it came to my mind that if I

had, God forbid, lost two brothers, I would leave everything else and knock on all doors and destroy mountains so as to find them.

I like, through Al Hayat newspaper, to inform all Kuwaitis that Russia will not neglect the issue and will, with all the determination, discuss it with the Iraqi government in an effort to explain the fate of those missing. We realize that this is a great humanitarian issue that touches the feelings of the Kuwaitis whose family ties occupy a prominent status. Igor Ivanov, the first deputy of the foreign minister, has offered assurances in this regard to Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and I gratefully point to the fact that the Kuwaiti side has on its part, in addition to double efforts in searching for Russian prisoners of war in Afghanistan, and this is a very important issue for us.

I gave the minister and his assistants great impressions about the talks with King Fahd, the Emir of Kuwait and the President of the United Arab Emirates (and the important thing is that the talks were held on the eve of the visit by Mr. Chernenmerdin). I believe that the meetings had shown development in the level of confidence in the leaders of these powerful countries have in Russia and has illuminated the expansion of our political dialogue and a rise in the interest of the

Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Russia.

On our part, we show the highest concern about the region at all levels, including security and defence. Relations in the latter do not develop at once; this is a very sensitive area. But Russia, as the nearest neighbour and closest marine superpower and permanent member of the Security Council, is increasingly interested in being one of the guarantors of security and stability in the Gulf, and it will look to this in the future. Iraq will be the most important element in that order.

In general, I say frankly that there are some who are trying to ride the latest wave of accidents about Iraq to plant in the Gulf the suspicions about Moscow's policy.

I do not think they will succeed. Mr. Kozzyrev's tour of the three Gulf states has convinced me that confidence between Russia and the Gulf states is continuously growing, and as it is often said, the caravan goes on.

The writer is Russian President Special Envoy to the Middle East and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The article is translated from the London-based *Al Hayat* newspaper.

## Kuwait's ship builders mourn age of simplicity

**By Nigel Sequeira**  
*Reuter*

**KUWAIT** — A boat builder as old as the century is reliving his glory days to try to teach affluent Kuwaitis about a time when people survived by manual labour.

It's stained white Arab robe and skullcap, Ali Abdul Rasul walks slowly around a dry dock from dawn to dusk, lovingly supervising the repair of a dhow he built half a century ago.

"In the old days there was no money, but my heart was satisfied," said the doyen of a proud boat-building community once economically vital to the small Gulf state.

"Now I have money," said Mr. Abdul Rasul, in his mid-90s. "But these days I think too much."

Fellow builder Saleh Mohammad Al Qailaf, 65, echoed his nostalgia for a communal seafaring spirit built by decades of toil and but now eroded by easy oil wealth. "Everyone knew each other then," he said. "Now I don't even know my neighbour."

At an age when other men are frail, Mr. Abdul Rasul last month began res-

toring Fateh Al Khair, a statey 40-metre craft he built in 1937-8 that once carried cargoes of spices, dates and wood between the Gulf, India and Africa.

He is indulging a passion thwarted 40 years ago when Kuwait embarked upon an era of leisured super-wealth funded by oil in which his skills and those of his maritime colleagues, the dhow sailors and pearl-divers, became irrelevant.

He has lived since then on building smaller fishing boats, and also, like many other boat builders, on welfare.

Fateh Al Khair was bought by an Iranian 30 years ago when a rapidly developing Kuwait shed many of its dhows.

It was spotted in February in a decrepit state in a Dubai port by researcher Yacoub Al Hajji of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, bought the vessel and had it returned to the emirate.

"Thunayan Al Ghanim felt like his lost son had come back home," said Abdul Rasul of Fateh Al Khair's former owner.

The foundation is over-

seeing the repairs, expected to take until the end of the year. The vessel will be mounted on a dry dock near parliament as part of a museum display intended to teach present-day Kuwaitis about their maritime roots.

Too old for manual work, Mr. Abdul Rasul perches his wiry frame on a bench while directing a team of Indian carpenters. At his command they clamber over the mouldy timbers tending to rusted metal-work and implanting new reinforcements of Indian oak.

Mr. Abdul Rasul pours water, gripping the tray like a vice with strong, meaty hands. He thinks modern workers are soft.

"It took two months to make Fath Al Khair with our old tools and no electricity, but we worked from sunrise to sunset without any breaks. Now, it will take very long, because they (workers) take too long," he said, referring to the lunch breaks and restricted hours stipulated by modern labour laws.

The boat builders made a range of vessels, creating "boom" and "baghla" large ocean-going ships for India and Africa trade, and

"sanbouk" and "jalbout" for pearl diving.

Conversations with the small builders' community return constantly to the pre-oil era when work was hard and money short, but life was simpler, more vital and more satisfying.

"Because of oil, the merchants stopped paying us," Hussain Youssef, who built his last boat 27 years ago, said at the boatbuilders' seashore social club. "The people only wanted miniature boats, just to commemorate their history."

They have not integrated easily into the modern economy.

Many boatbuilders were too proud to take the government jobs spawned by a growing bureaucracy and felt the practice of saving an individual monthly salary to be alien to their tradition of sharing everything, including money, in the community.

Once respected as "stath" (professor) or "qalaf" (dhow builder), creators of complex vessels from unwritten, memorised plans handed down from father to son, builders came in time to be offered only lowly jobs as janitors and caretakers.

# Winter threatens survival in Kabul

**By Alistair Lyon**  
*Reader*

**KABUL** — Bicycles and carts laden with sacks of flour, bundles of firewood or jerricans through the main crossing point linking divided Kabul whenever fighting subsides.

These petty traders grimace as bullets carter down over the nearby Kabul River, but do not turn back. They pedal harder past the wrecked buildings and thrust crumpled bank notes into the hands of gunmen who exact tolls at checkpoints along the way.

Opposition forces led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and General Abdul Rashid Dostum are blockading the north of the Afghan capital, which is held by allies of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

But a trickle of goods still reaches government-controlled areas thanks to the profits to be made from the desperate men lugging food and fuel across the battle lines and the private trucks that sometimes bribe



**An old man waits for handouts (AFP photo)**

with young girls worse off than boys.

No one exactly how many people remain in Kabul, but relief workers say those who have stayed are mostly the poorest who cannot pay for transport out.

People have already sold their possessions. Many are borrowing money to survive, and begging has become more important," Ms. Curdy said.

The men carrying goods across the front line keep some for themselves before selling the rest. Some scour shell-scarred ruins for wooden beams which can be chopped up for firewood. Others sell property looted from abandoned homes.

Markets are bustling in districts that have escaped

total devastation, but few Kabulis can afford what is available — the prices of flour and diesel have tripled in the past year.

A 220-gram portion of flat bread cost six Afghans under the old communist government toppled by Islamic guerrillas in April 1972. Now, a 150-gram portion costs 200 Afghans.

This is negligible in dollar terms, but public employees earn only 40,000 Afghans (\$11.50) a month, less than a quarter of the estimated sum needed for a family to survive.

Under Mohammad Najibullah, the Moscow-backed ruler who held on to power for over three years after Soviet troops withdrew, government-run shops provided virtually

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These benefits have disappeared, although the government has tried to compensate by giving its employees cash bonuses.

While penny threatens most people, there are enough wealthy risk guerrilla commanders to sustain a market for expensive new four-wheel-driver vehicles stolen in Pakistan and sold openly in Kabul.

"There is a tiny stratum of people making an enormous amount of money out of this war and a large stratum of people that has been impoverished," Mr. Masty said.

## 13 killed, 200 wounded

(Continued from page 1)

that the shooting halted as police returned to barracks and people went home to observe belatedly a curfew.

It was the first time Palestinian police opened fire directly at a Palestinian crowd since they assumed responsibility for maintaining order on the Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May.

"The bloodshed sets a very grave precedent," warned Lyad Abu Amer, a politics lecturer at the West Bank university of Bir Zeit.

It has shattered a taboo, even though both sides want to avoid open conflict. There is a real danger of civil war.

But PNA Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, repeated over and over again to journalists: "We don't want a civil war, we don't want a civil war."

The gap has widened daily between the fundamentalists who accuse Arafat of treachery and have kept attacking Israelis and the Palestinian leader who has a monopoly on power," said Mr. Abu Amer.

Mr. Arafat has also been under strong Israeli pressure to crackdown on the hardliners who have killed some 40 Jews since May.

The death toll had risen to 12 civilians and one policeman with more than 200 wounded, 10 of them police doctors.

In Damascus, Hamas warned the "massacre" would not go "unpunished." The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that rioters shot the policemen. Witnesses saw many civilians carrying guns. Wafa quoted police, who made several arrests, as accusing "outlaw elements, acting under orders from abroad," of starting trouble. "Holding loudspeakers and carrying banners with aggressive slogans, they opened fire suddenly on some of the policemen."

Youngsters chanted at the security forces: "These are the enemies of the Arabs, these are Israelis."

After more than an hour of shooting around the mosque, the focus shifted to Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, where most of the injured were treated, and then spread across the city and beyond.

At Shifa's gates, hundreds of youths threw stones at police cars provoking more fire, witnesses said. Three vehicles were damaged.

"Arafat traitor, get out of Gaza, no peace with Jews," they yelled.

The injured lay on the floor of the hospital because of a shortage of beds in the emergency ward.

"This is worse than anything I saw during the infatuation under Israeli occupation," said on Shifa doctor who identified himself only as a doctor.

The hospital, whose main

doors were daubed with blood, put out an emergency appeal for donors.

Rioters tore down a metal fence surrounding Gaza City and threw stones at the troops.

Some 300 rioters also looted shops and rocks at Israeli soldiers' feet.

During a checkpoint outside Gaza, the Gaza Strip, the soldiers of Gaza City. The soldiers fired at the rioters set fire to their post, witnesses said.

In the southern town of Rafah, hundreds of Hamas supporters took to the streets shouting anti-Arafat slogans.

They attacked a movie house, setting fire to parts of it and damaging seats.

Security forces also sealed off streets leading to government buildings and prevented vehicles from entering Gaza City.

Hamas leaders had urged followers and the police to halt the bloodshed.

Spokesman Mahmoud Al Zahhar urged police to stop the violence and told Hamas youth to leave the area and stop throwing stones.

Salah Safade, a Hamas leader, appealed at a mosque rally in Gaza City to people to stop stoning police.

"We don't want a massacre here to continue," he said.

He also summoned his police and sides and said he blamed the fundamentalists who oppose his peace-making with Israel for the bloodshed. At his seaside headquarters, distant from the

could be still be heard in late afternoon.

Said Mr. Arafat refused to impose a broad curfew and gave orders to security chiefs to "act firmly, toughly, and to respond severely with armed militants no matter what the results are."

PNA officials said activists of the Hamas group provoked the clash at the mosque. A police statement said police were fired on first.

Tensions have been building as a result of a series of suicide bombings and shootings by Islamic militants aimed at Israeli targets.

The bloodshed has threatened to freeze the expansion of autonomy into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and Arafat has tried to rein in the group's fundamentalist group Hamas.

"We warn these groups of ruthlessness against attempts to harm the public safety," said a spokesman for Gazi Jabali, chief of police in the Gaza Strip where 800,000 Palestinians live.

Some worshippers blamed Mr. Arafat's government.

"This government must be finished, changed as soon as possible. All the people feel this way," said Mahmoud Qassem, 30, who was wounded in the left thigh. "It is worse than the Israelis."

A Hamas activist said the march was planned to be peaceful and was in solidarity with arrested members of the Islamic Jihad who were rounded up by the PNA after attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Foreign relief workers say conditions in Kabul could worsen sharply when winter snows replace autumn sunshine and malnourished people vulnerable to normally non-lethal diseases.

"When it gets cold, people will face a choice between freezing or starving," said Steve Mastey, the U.S. director of Care International in Kabul. "Or they could just leave and burst in Jalalabad at the seams."


The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says that in the past few weeks about 1,000 people a day have been arriving from Kabul in the eastern city of Jalalabad, where sprawling camps already hold about 250,000 displaced people.

This year's bitter fighting has killed 5,000 people, wounded 40,000 and forced over 500,000 to flee a capital lacking running water, electricity or sanitation, the UNHCR says.

"I don't expect a famine this winter, but conditions will be extremely tough," said Ariane Curdy, a nutritionist working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"People are very close to the edge. Some leave homes in the morning not knowing where they'll eat in the evening."

Ms. Curdy said surveys carried out earlier this year had shown that malnutrition was already on the rise among displaced people.




An old man waits for hands with young girls worse off than boys.

No one exactly how many people remain in Kabul, but relief workers say those who have stayed are mostly the poorest who cannot pay for transport out.

"People have already sold their possessions. Many are borrowing money to survive and begging has become more important," Ms. Curdy said.

The men carrying goods across the front line keep some for themselves before selling the rest. Some sell shell-scarred ruins for wooden beams which can be chopped up for firewood. Others sell property looted from abandoned homes.

Markets are bustling in districts that have escaped



is (AFP photo)

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...vinced  
...and is over

## Russia seeks foothold in Gulf market

**DUBAI (AFP)** — Russia, dogged by economic difficulties at home, hopes to carve out a place for itself in the lucrative Gulf market during a six-day visit to the region by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin starting Saturday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, on the first official visit by a head of government from the former Soviet Union.

The oil-rich Gulf exerts a strong attraction for Russia which has only a tiny share of its market so far.

Annual imports by Arab Gulf monarchies — worth \$50 billion — come mainly from the United States, Japan and Europe.

The principle aim of the visit is "economic" rather than political, according to a government spokesman in Moscow.

The Russian delegation, which includes Energy Minister Viktor Chirchik as well as senior foreign ministry, economic and military industry officials, will concentrate on "energy and cooperation in military technology," the spokesman said.

Hundreds of thousands of nationals from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), especially Russians, are carrying out a thriving unofficial trade with several Arab Gulf countries.

Last year around 400,000 CIS nationals visited the UAE where they spent nearly \$1 billion, mainly on electronic equipment and tax.

The Russian news agency Interfax said Russia would sign trade and economic cooperation accords with Saudi Arabia, Oman and Kuwait during Mr. Chernomyrdin's visit.

Moscow also hopes to sell military equipment to Gulf leaders.

## Daily Business Beat

The following is a new column summarising financial and economic news that appeared a day earlier in Jordan's Arabic dailies. The news is compiled by our economic editor Samir Shaqqa Ghawi

★ Fierce competition is raging among 44 candidates for 12 seats on the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce as the contestants continue their campaign to win votes. Ten incumbents are running for reelection. The 44 contestants are mainly grouped in three blocs, each comprising 12 candidates. The eight left are running as independents. Elections are to be held Monday, Dec. 5, 1994 (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ Tafleeh residents are complaining of high tomato prices, which reached 520 fils a kilogramme. Claiming that tomatoes were not reaching a wide sector of the population, Tafleeh requested the authorities to provide the product to the people at a reasonable price before considering tomato exports to neighbouring states (Al Rai).

★ Qasem Al Omari, director of mining at the National Resources Authority, told Petra, the Jordan News Agency, that the Kingdom had earned JD 439 million in 1993 from mining raw minerals and the mining industry. He added that the value of exports of raw minerals and products of mining industries amounted to JD 259 million last year (Al Rai).

★ Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf will deliver a speech on "economic challenges in the coming era" on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Philadelphia Hotel. Dr. Khalaf will be speaking at the invitation of the Jordan Trade Association (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ A Royal Decree has sanctioned a regulation under which prizes would be given yearly to exceptional exporters. Called "Al Hussein Appreciative Prizes for the Exceptional Exporter," they would be given to any person or company that (1) develops national exports; (2) produces products that can be exported to international markets; (3) improves the quality of national production by making it more competitive in outside markets; (4) promotes products or national services and markets them in new and non-traditional markets (Al Rai).

★ The Department of Land and Survey has collected JD 52,796,059 in revenue during the first ten months of this year. The amount is five per cent more than the revenue during the same period last year, when the amount was JD 50,460,632. According to the department's director general, revenues this year were steady and regular unlike the flow in 1993 when the revenues were highly fluctuating (Ad-Dustour).

★ Akher Khabar, the Company that launched an afternoon newspaper a few months ago, has invited the shareholders to an extraordinary general assembly meeting, to be held Monday, Nov. 21, 1994. No details about the agenda for the meeting were given (Ad-Dustour).

★ 72 industrial companies are participating in an exhibition organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation. Products on display at Amman International Exhibition include television sets, heating and air conditioning units, refrigerators and washing machines. Other electrical industries are displaying products at the exhibition which will be open daily until Nov. 21, 1994 (Ad-Dustour).

★ The market for used cars is reported to be in temporary stagnation as buyers insist on lower prices while sellers insist that the recent customs tariff changes were inapplicable because they (sellers) had bought their cars at higher prices. Many used cars traders said they had not made a single deal since customs tariffs were amended. A general manager for a haraj (used car market) said prices of used Japanese cars have gone down by 30 per cent while prices of used American cars have gone down by 40 per cent after calculating the reduction in tariffs for the new cars. Many people, however, are also complaining that merchants are not abiding by the reduction in prices on car spare parts (Ad-Dustour).

★ The Department of Land and Survey has recommended to the Prime Ministry an amendment to the law of real estate hypothecated against credit. According to the proposal, an auction of the hypothecated property should not be opened for less than 50 per cent of the estimated value of the mortgaged real estate upon its seizure (Ad-Dustour).

### Financial Markets

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Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
16/11/1994	17/11/1994	
Sterling Pound*	1.5735	1.5747
Deutsche Mark	1.5505	1.5487
Swiss Franc	1.3043	1.3017**
French Franc	5.3240	5.3139**
Japanese Yen	98.36	98.24
European Currency Unit	1.2283	1.2307**

\* USD per STD  
\*\* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Source: 17/11/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.68	5.93	6.31
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.75	6.18	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.68	5.87	6.31
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.75	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.20	2.32	2.65

Source: 17/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0977	1.1082
Deutsche Mark	0.4502	0.4526
Swiss Franc	0.5351	0.5378
French Franc	0.1311	0.1318
Japanese Yen	0.7097	0.7132
Dutch Guilder	0.4017	0.4037
Swedish Krona	0.0439	0.0441

Source: 17/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1867
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5050	2.5650
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7950	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.1896	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3115
Cypriot Pound	1.8450	1.4970

Source: 17/11/1994

### JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Source: 17/11/1994

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFER CLOSING PRICE
ANAN BANK	133,420	184,000	184,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	677,787	4,250	4,250
RAJAB BANK	104,117	2,500	2,500
KHLEIFA BANK INVESTMENT BANK	79,974	1,750	1,750
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,910	45,000	45,000
THE JORDANIAN BANK	205,043	5,570	5,570
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	176,090	2,950	2,950
JORDAN OVER BANK	237,712	1,770	1,770
JORDAN LEASING BANK	162,331	1,680	1,680
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	7,732	4,900	4,900
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	844,208	2,550	2,550
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	67,927	6,800	6,800
REIT JORDAN SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	33,561	3,350	3,350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	331,978	4,510	4,510
ANAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	16,924	3,940	3,940
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	105,092	4,500	4,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	126,693	3,500	3,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	64,238	2,510	2,510
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,550	2,550	2,550
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	600	3,000	3,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	177,078	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,432	1,432	1,432
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	287,898	1,550	1,550
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,544	3,950	3,950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	600	3,000	3,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,243	5,450	5,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	105,223	3,340	3,340
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	70,583	2,450	2,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	41,554	1,010	1,010
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,565	1,110	1,110
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,500	1,500	1,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,244	11,700	11,700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,588	14,500	13,770
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	945,017	2,450	2,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	40,952	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	126,693	3,500	3,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,320	2,110	2,110
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	710,602	2,000	2,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	720,284	2,500	2,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	177,078	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	105,223	3,340	3,340
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	126,693	3,500	3,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	600	3,000	3,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	28,822	2,920	2,920
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	649,211	12,500	12,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	197,442	2,650	2,710
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	21,229	2,750	2,750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,544,618	17,100	18,100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	229,437	1,010	1,010
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	79,282	7,150	7,150
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	103,008	1,400	1,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	274,235	4,300	4,300
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	126,693	3,500	3,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	91,341	1,640	1,640
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	50,623	4,700	4,700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,400	4,400	4,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	26,427	6,400	6,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	236,995	5,750	5,750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	26,349	2,100	2,100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	60,845	2,940	2,940
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	132,947	1,950	1,950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	826,261	6,300	6,400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	184,307	2,770	2,780
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	13,546,402		

## African trade bank formally begins operations, prefers good risks

**CAIRO (R)** — The new African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) formally began operations in Cairo Wednesday and billed itself as one of the keys to stimulating trade between African countries and with the rest of the world.

But Afreximbank President Christopher Edordu told reporters that African countries in dire straits would probably not be eligible for loans for trade unless they could come up with some kind of structure financing arrangement.

The bank, based on an idea from the African Development Bank, is owned by 23 African states, 16 African central banks and 86 financial institutions in Africa and elsewhere.

It has authorised capital of \$750 million, of which the founding shareholders have so far subscribed about \$490 million.

"Its aim is to extend credit to African exporters, importers of African goods and African businesses which want to import goods for conversion into exports."

In practice it started operations in September but Wednesday was the day the bank brought in dignitaries from across the continent to see the ribbon cut at its temporary headquarters.

Mr. Edordu said the bank has so far financed three transactions, all of them in African commodities. It lead-managed a 16-bank

syndicated loan of \$150 million, and itself lent \$6.5 million, for pre-shipment finance of cocoa purchases in an unnamed west African state.

The terms were 1.25 per cent above LIBOR plus commitment and management fees, Mr. Edordu said. It also participated in a \$5 million French franc (\$10.3 million) loan for pre-shipment purchase of cotton in a west African state. He again declined to name the country.

The terms in this case were two per cent above the Paris Inter-Bank Offered Rate (PIBOR). Afreximbank made its contribution in dollars but Mr. Edordu did not say how big it was.

The Third transaction was \$5 million towards a \$15 million loan to a copper marketing board in southern Africa.

Mr. Edordu said terms would vary from country to country, and borrower to borrower, with low-risk countries like Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco borrowing at 0.75 per cent above LIBOR.

In second-tier countries, the bank would lend "if we can develop suitable mitigants" such as structured financing, where the borrower assigns part of its operations to repay the loan.

In the case of African countries with bad repayment records or where the environment was not favourable towards trade, the new bank could help with advice on how to unblock trade or by putting them in touch with the secondary debt market, he said.

The bank is now arranging a shipment of petroleum products into Rwanda by a Mauritanian company on behalf of an international aid agency working there, he added. "So even in a country like Rwanda you can finance trade if you are imaginative," Mr. Edordu said.

Immediately after the launching ceremony Wednesday Afreximbank signed one agreement to cooperate with the Trade and Development Bank of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) and one with Equator Bank on pre-shipment financing of mineral exports in eastern and southern Africa.

Equator Bank is majority owned by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

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## 1st Division Basketball Championship

## Hussein score vital win over Homentmen; Ahli, Orthodoxi continue unbeaten streak

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein scored their first win and took the initial step towards securing their place in the First Division Basketball Championship when they overcame Homentmen 67-54 Thursday and added a precious two points to their standings.

In other matches, Al Ahli could only score a 96-69 win over Al Jalil — the titleholders' first win below the 100 point mark — while Al Orthodoxi scored a big 107-59 victory over Al Watani who will need to defeat Al Hussein Sunday in order to decide which team will accompany Homentmen to the second division.

Al Hussein's win Sunday ended Homentmen's chances of avoiding relegation after the team failed to score the necessary minimum number of three wins. Nevertheless Homentmen might have easily scored their first win had their lineup been complete, as Al Hussein played their worst match and capitalised on their opponents' ball-

handling mistakes and individual play.

Homentmen missed the efforts of playmaker Robert Chatmajian and Vasken Ajemian, both of whom would have been instrumental in assisting their teammates score a face-saving win.

Homentmen had a bad start to the game as many key players and even their coach were not present at the start of the match since the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) had recently announced the match would be held at 8 p.m., while the referees insisted that it begin at 7:30 according to the previous schedule announced at the beginning of the competition. Thus players who had come early to watch the previous match formed the original lineup!

Al Hussein took the lead early in the match at 16-9, but Sevan Sarkissian narrowed the gap to 19-15.

However, Al Hussein again succeeded in widening the gap 28-18 before Sarkissian and teammate Vicken Avakian managed to catch up at 28-24.

Homentmen's Avakian

was the top scorer in the second half, as most bench players who represented his team in this match lacked the experience and were not effective, while Al Hussein easily scored through fast breaks taking advantage of many loose balls and intercepted passes.

Al Hussein led 62-45 before Homentmen managed to score in the final minutes ending the match with a 13-point win for Al Hussein.

In an earlier match, former champions Al Orthodoxi turned up with only seven key players against Al Watani giving Mudar Barakat and Jack Koro a rest to heal their injuries before their important match against titleholders Al Ahli.

Al Orthodoxi tried their full court press defence by which they took total control of the match and ended the first half 52-21.

Al Watani managed to better their score in the second half, but Al Orthodoxi ended the match with a 107-59 win.

In Friday, Al Jalil gave the titleholders a hard time be-

fore losing 96-69.

To everyone's amazement, scoring remained close throughout the first half as Al Ahli led 25-16 before ending the first half with a mere 10-point win at 43-33.

Al Jalil managed to catch up early in the second half and reduced the gap to 58-51!

However, Al Ahli altered their style in the second half and built a fast lead at 76-58 before sealing their fourth consecutive win.

Al Ahli now lead the standings with eight points from four matches, followed by Al Jazireh, Al Orthodoxi and Al Jalil.

The four teams seem set to maintain standings

## STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	4	4	—	480	216	8
Jazireh	4	3	1	333	305	7
Orthodoxi	3	3	—	315	170	6
Jalil	4	2	2	324	301	6
Watani	5	1	4	340	467	6
Homentmen	5	—	5	225	488	5
Hussein	3	1	2	197	267	4

\*Orthodoxi-Hussein have a postponed match.

## Baseball strike talks resume

HERNDON, Virginia (AP) — Striking U.S. Major League Baseball players received a 102-page contract proposals from owners that calls for a "tax" on revenues and payrolls. It was management's first new offer since June 14.

In a windowless conference room at a hotel in suburban Washington, the two sides met together for four hours Thursday. Players left the meeting carrying blue folders containing copies of the proposal.

Neither side would reveal details of the offer, and the players said they wanted to read the entire proposal before the commenting.

"They did not go over it page-by-page. They summarised it," Union Executive Mark Belanger said.

Added Kansas City pitcher David Cone: "We've got to read it. Talk to our economists about it and see what its impact would be. There are some guys who probably won't get much sleep tonight."

No one from management made himself available for comment.

"I will not characterise the discussions today, other than to say we're here discussing the issues," said mediator W. J. Usery, appointed by President Clinton. "We'd all like an agreement and both sides are working hard to get one."

The players were pessimistic before the session, and Cone said bargaining was intense. Owners are trying to bargain for an economic system that will help struggling small-market teams compete on a somewhat equal financial basis. Owners have shelved their earlier proposal, which guaranteed players half of all revenues in exchange for a cap on team salaries.

Players went out on strike August 12 to protest the owners' desire to impose a salary cap. The owners retaliated a month later by cancelling the season and the championship World Series which had been played every year since 1904.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Aqaba skiing competition concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Fawwaz Abu Ghanam deputised for His Majesty King Hussein at the Aqaba International Skiing competition, organised by the Royal Jordanian Marine Sports Federation and the Aquamarina Hotel. Fifty four competitors represented Belgium, France, Britain, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, and Jordan in the championship sanctioned by the International Skiing Federation.

## Europe's sprint queen Lochsong retiring

LONDON (R) — European champion sprinter racehorse Lochsong is to be retired. Trainer Ian Balding said the mare had returned from the Breeders' Cup with a leg injury. Lochsong finished last in Kentucky but had dominated the European sprint scene for the past two years when she was unbeatable over five furlongs.

## Pain in new injury agony

MUNICH (AFP) — Bayern Munich's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin was hit by new injury agony here Friday when he broke a bone in his left hand in training. The injury, which has already been operated on, will keep him out of Saturday's Bundesliga match with Karlsruhe. The former AC Milan player returned to action last week as a substitute after a prolonged knee injury to score his first goal of the season for his new club against Schalke 04.

## France rocked by new soccer scandal

PARIS (AFP) — France was rocked by a new football scandal here Friday when Francis Borelli, president of first division side Cannes, was accused of financial fraud. The charges date back to when Borelli was president of reigning champions Paris Saint Germain, a post he took up in 1978 and which he held during the glory years that saw the club win the French Cup in 1982 and 1983 and lift their first league title in 1986. Borelli became president at Cannes in 1992. Last season Olympique Marseille, the 1993 European Champions, were relegated to the second division and stripped of their 1992/93 French title following a match-rigging scandal.

## Bonaly, Kwan trail in French Trophy skating

LYON (AP) — Marie-Pierre Leray of France took the lead after the women's short programme Thursday of the French Trophy International Figure Skating Competition. The French Trophy is a new event in France this year, replacing the Laique Trophy which lost its competition status after a feud with the French Skating Federation over television rights. Favourites Surya Bonaly of France and Michele Kwan of the United States followed. Bonaly, the four-time European champion, fell on a triple Lutz and put her hand down on a double axel jump. Kwan, the 14-year-old who is the top American hope this year, was fourth.

## Saudi Arabia captures Gulf Cup

ABU DHABI (AP) — Saudi Arabia clinched the Gulf Cup soccer championship for the first time in the tournament's 24-year history after outsmarting Kuwait for a 2-0 win in their final match. The Saudis finished with nine points from five matches, second place was host team United Arab Emirates, who defeated winless Oman 2-0 in the tournament's last match, and ended with eight points. The Arab World's premier soccer tournament, held every other year, began in 1970. It is held in round-robin format.

## Olympians see television improving image of athletics

NEW YORK (R) — Two Olympic sprinters on Thursday lauded plans to televise next year's Mobil Indoor Track Field Circuit in the United States, saying it would raise long-overdue interest in the sport here.

"It is time for us to take our place in the world of sports and this series of track meets is the first stepping stone towards that," said Dennis Mitchell about the plans to broadcast five consecutive meets through February, beginning with the famed Millrose Games here at Madison Square Garden February 3.

Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist in the 100 metres, was joined by his Olympic teammate Michael

Johnson, a member of the gold medal winning American 4x100 relay team at a news conference.

"Track and field will be on TV every weekend for a month and it will look like a big show and that is going to be make it attractive to the fans," said Mitchell, who has committed to running in three of the events.

"The sport is no where near close to reaching its full potential. This will start to develop the fan base here to get track and field back on its feet," Johnson said.

It is ironic, to Mitchell, that a series like this is necessary to show the American fans what the rest of the world has seen for a long time.

## Prolific Patriot passer poses problem

WASHINGTON (AFP) — New England quarterback Drew Bledsoe has become an aerial force in American Football, throwing opponents off balance by passing his way into the record books.

Bledsoe, the first choice in last year's National Football League (NFL) draft, has thrown for a league-best 3,031 yards. He tossed a one-game record 70 passes last week, rallying the Patriots over Minnesota 26-20 in overtime.

"It didn't seem like so many," said Bledsoe, who completed 45 passes for a team-record 426 yards and three touchdowns. "We were going to throw until they forced us to do something

else and they never did."

In 10 games, Bledsoe has completed 264 of 471 passes for 17 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. With six games remaining, Bledsoe could threaten the NFL single-season passing record of 5,084 yards set by Dan Marino in 1984.

Endurance is not a worry for Bledsoe, even after 70 passes in one game.

"My arm doesn't feel that bad. It's doing OK," he said Thursday. "It's a lot easier when you are completing them. We thought we could get them tired on defense and now that's a weapon we can use against other teams."

Expect Bledsoe to fill the skies again this week when the Patriots (4-6) host San

Diego, which had the NFL's worst pass defense last season. The Chargers (8-2) now share the NFL's top record with Dallas, San Francisco and Cleveland but have only one triumph over a contending club.

"I've never seen a quarterback throw that many times. I didn't think it was possible," San Diego defender Shawn Lee said. "It's truly amazing. And our defense is a lot like Minnesota's. But if he throws 70 again this week, I guarantee at least one interception."

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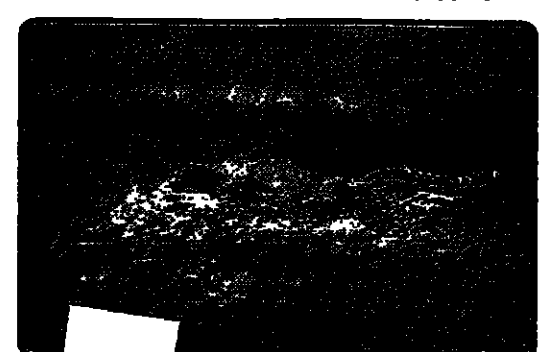
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## TS IN BRIEF

**Competition concludes**  
 — Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Hassan al-Haydar, announced the conclusion of the 1994 Arab Youth Sports Competition, which was held in Amman from October 15 to 25. The competition, organized by the Arab League, featured athletes from 22 Arab countries. The Jordanian team, coached by Hassan al-Haydar, won a total of 15 medals, including 5 gold, 5 silver, and 5 bronze.

**Queen Lochsong retiring**  
 — European champion sprinter Lochsong, who won the 100m and 200m titles at the 1992 World Championships in Barcelona, has announced her retirement from competitive athletics. Lochsong, who is from Mongolia, has a career record of 11.8 seconds in the 100m and 24.8 seconds in the 200m.

**Injury agony**  
 — Bayern Munich's French striker, Jean-Pierre L'Evêque, is expected to miss the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee injury during a friendly match with Borussia Dortmund. L'Evêque, who is 28 years old, has been a key player for Bayern since joining the club in 1992.

**led by new soccer scandal**  
 — France was rocked by a new soccer scandal when it was revealed that the president of the French Football Federation, Robert Robert, had been involved in a bribery scheme to ensure the success of the French national team at the 1998 World Cup.

**trail in French Trophy skating**  
 — Pierre L'Evêque, the French sprinter, has won the 100m and 200m titles at the 1994 Arab Youth Sports Competition. L'Evêque, who is 28 years old, has a career record of 11.8 seconds in the 100m and 24.8 seconds in the 200m.

**captures Gulf Cup**  
 — Saudi Arabia has won the 1994 Gulf Cup of Nations, defeating Iraq 2-1 in the final. Saudi Arabia, coached by Ibrahim Al-Jabbor, has a record of 10 wins, 3 draws, and 1 loss in the tournament.

**ed Studio For Re**  
 — The Jordanian government has announced the establishment of a new studio for the production of television programs. The studio, which is located in Amman, will be used to produce a variety of programs, including news, entertainment, and educational programs.

**fell Equipped**  
 — The Jordanian national football team has been equipped with new uniforms for the 1994 Arab Cup. The uniforms, which are made of high-quality material, are in the colors of the Jordanian flag.

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## NBA standout traded to Bullets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chris Webber, last season's National Basketball Association rookie of the year, was traded from Golden State to Washington Thursday for forward Tom Gugliotta and three future draft choices. The Bullets, who have not made the NBA playoffs in a decade, have strengthened their lineup with Webber. The cost was team captain Gugliotta plus first-round draft picks in 1996, 1998 and 2000.

Webber, who ended a holdout Wednesday, will be reunited with Juwan Howard, his former teammate at the University of Michigan. Howard was the final unsigned 1994 draft pick before closing a deal with the Bullets on Thursday. Webber averaged 17.5 points, 9.1 rebounds and 3.5 assists a game last season, but had strained relations with Warriors coach Don Nelson. Webber took advantage of an escape clause to renegotiate his 15-year, \$24 million contract and was a holdout this season until signing a 12-year, \$73.14 million deal Wednesday.

Howard and Webber will join the team Saturday for a practice session before playing their first NBA game together Saturday night when the Bullets host the Boston Celtics. Howard averaged 15.3 points and 7.5 rebounds a game in three college seasons. Terms of his contract were not released, but the prospect of playing alongside Howard was key to bringing Webber to the nation's capital.



Seattle Supersonics Gary Payton (right) collides with New Jersey Nets Kenny Anderson during their Nov. 15 match (AP photo)

### NBA basketball results from Thursday:

New Jersey 111, Washington 103  
 Charlotte 99, L.A. Clippers 83  
 Houston 106, Chicago 83  
 Dallas 96, Sacramento 94  
 Detroit 94, Denver 92  
 Cleveland 81, Portland 80  
 Golden State 109, New York 100.

## Pierce ousts Graf at Slims Championships

NEW YORK (R) — Mary Pierce pounded winners from both sides to blast her way past top-seeded Steffi Graf 6-4, 6-4 Thursday and claim a spot in the semifinals of the season-ending \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championships. The fifth-seeded Pierce, who shocked Graf 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals of this year's French Open, pounced on her latest opportunity against the world number one with a flourish, cutting down the sluggish German with an all-out assault from the baseline.

Graf, who looked pale and slow as she played her second match since being sidelined nine weeks for a back ailment, fought valiantly but could not withstand the fire behind the Frenchwoman's sizzling groundstrokes. "I was really at on court," said Pierce, who raised her arms in triumph and yelled, "yes" to the cheering Madison Square Garden crowd after her one-hour, 29-minute victory. "I was hitting on everything and I had all my shots working."

Pierce will meet the winner of the quarter-final between fourth seed Jana Novotna and seventh-seeded American Lindsay Davenport.

Pierce used her power to overcome an inconsistent first-round performance against South African Amanda Coetzer in which she sprayed 49 unforced errors in a three-set victory.

Against Graf, Pierce's drives were pinpoint. Graf, whose season went downhill after winning the Australian Open, gave Pierce credit rather than blame her own lack of match fitness.

"I think she was extremely solid. She didn't make many mistakes and she was going for shots, taking risks," said Graf, who failed to successfully defend her titles this year at the French, Wimbledon and U.S. Championships, and now here at the Slims final.

"My back has been fine, much better than I expected it to be," Graf said. "I expected to play better."

"I'm really disappointed in the way I played." A lone service break in the seventh game, when Pierce took advantage of Graf's inviting second serves, gave the Frenchwoman her winning margin in the first set, which she ended with an emphatic



Michael Chang

semis and have legitimate shot at winning it. My confidence is greater than ever," said Agassi, who won the inaugural event here in 1990.

Agassi has jumped to No. 2 in the world after bouncing back from wrist injury by winning the U.S. Open and 21 out of his last 22 matches.

Sampras, the No. 1 in the world, lost to Boris Becker in his opening match and needed to beat Edberg to retain hopes of advancing to the semifinals.

For one set, it seemed that Edberg would cause Sampras to make an early exit. But Sampras raised his game and once he broke the Swede for a 4-2 lead in the second set, he took command. Sampras never lost his serve again and closed out the match after one hour, 55 minutes.

"He doesn't have any weaknesses anymore," said Edberg, a former No. 1 who has slipped to No. 8. Edberg dropped to 1-1 and will play Becker (2-0) in his last match for a place in the last four, while Sampras (1-1) meets Goran Ivanisevic (0-2).

Because of Edberg's defeat, even Ivanisevic retains a slim hope of making the last four, although he looked virtually eliminated after his loss to the Swede.

The \$3 million tournament is limited to the eighth top-ranked players under a two-group round-robin format. The top two finishers from each group advance to the semifinals.

Sampras, who won the 1991 tournament, allowed Edberg only one point in the first three games. But the Swede found his touch in the fifth game and broke back.

## Navratilova loses again, this time in doubles

It was an encore of sorts. The ending, though, didn't change. Martina Navratilova walked off the court again Thursday night after losing in the Virginia Slims Championships.

Two nights after losing to Gabriela Sabatini in the singles, she and Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands lost 6-2, 6-4 to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Jana Novotna in a semifinal doubles match.

It wasn't pretty. Twice Navratilova served in the final set. And both times was broken, her once penetrating serve now being hammered back for winners.

It perhaps was only fitting that on the final point of her final match, she received serve, and wound up netting a backhand return.

The Madison Square Garden crowd, smaller than the one that paid tribute to her Tuesday night, gave perhaps the greatest women's player of all time a standing ovation. There were no miracle finishes this time, not like at Wimbledon in July when she reached the singles final.

Her number of doubles titles remains at a record 165. She also won a record 167 singles championships in a career that began in 1974.

While she officially has retired from playing singles on the WTA Tour, she has hinted that she might continue to play doubles.

### Navratilova by the numbers

- Number 1: Navratilova held the world number one ranking in women's tennis a total of 381 weeks — that's seven years and 17 weeks.
- July 10, 1978-January 13, 1979 (27 weeks); January 28-February 24, 1979 (4 weeks); April 16-June 24, 1979 (10 weeks); September 10, 1979-April 6, 1980 (30 weeks); April 21-June 30, 1980 (10 weeks); May 3-16, 1982 (2 weeks); June 14, 1982-June 9, 1985 (156 weeks); October 14-27, 1985 (2 weeks); November 25, 1985-August 16, 1987 (140 weeks).
- 2: She won at least two singles titles every year from 1975 through 1993.
- 3: She won the Australian Open singles title three times.
- 4: She won the U.S. Open singles title four times.
- 6: Navratilova's career has spanned six U.S. presidential administrations, from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton.
- 8: Navratilova has won singles titles in eight different countries.
- 9: She won Wimbledon a record nine times, the only player to win that many editions of any one Grand Slam except Margaret Court, who won the Australian Open 11 times.
- 12: She won the Virginia Slims of Chicago 12 times. In recognition of that feat, Chicago declared February 12, 1992, Martina Navratilova Day.
- 18: She won a total of 81 Grand Slam singles titles, second only to Margaret Court's 24.
- 23: She reached a record 23 consecutive finals from June 12, 1983-November 25, 1984.
- 37: She won 37 Grand Slam doubles titles, 31 women's doubles and six mixed. She completed a double Grand Slam with Pam Shriver in 1984.
- 74: She won 74 straight matches in 1984, the longest consecutive match streak ever.
- 80: She played Chris Evert 80 times. She lost 21 of their first 25 matches, but finished their career head-to-head 43-37.
- 84: Navratilova has won both singles and doubles titles at the same event a record 84 times.
- 165: She has won 165 doubles titles on the women's tour.
- 167: She has won 167 singles titles, beating Jimmy Connors' men's tour record of 109.
- 1,438: Navratilova has won 1,438 of her 1,649 competitive singles matches, losing just 211.
- 20,052,227: Navratilova has won \$20,052,227 in prize money.

## Maradona accused of inciting violence

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A referee and a senior soccer team official Thursday accused former superstar Diego Maradona of aggression and calling fans to attack them when his struggling team was losing a match.

Referee Angel Sanchez told a local radio station Maradona, who coaches Mandiyo in Argentina's Corrientes Province, that Maradona chased him into the changing rooms and kicked his shoulder after his team lost 2-1 to Independiente.

Independiente's vice-president Hector Grondona said Maradona shouted insults at him during the game and urged Mandiyo fans to attack him.

"Maradona is a menace," Grondona protested. "Had it not been for Mandiyo's president, who acted like a gentleman, I don't know whether I would have made it out of the field alive," he added.

"He is constantly inciting to violence. He is a challenge to security in any stadium," added Grondona.

Referee Sanchez, who gave Independiente a penalty, agreed, saying, "even worse than that were Maradona's remarks at a news conference inciting the people of Corrientes to join ranks for battle."

This could be a prelude to soccer violence, said Sanchez, adding he has filed a report with the AFA.

The controversial Maradona has accused the Grondonas of "trying to send Mandiyo to the second division by decree."

Mandiyo is at the bottom of the Argentine championship, having failed to win a single one of the 12 matches played so far.

Maradona's presence failed to inject any stamina into the team — of the seven he has coached, Mandiyo lost four and drew three.

The 34-year-old ex-star has repeatedly accused the AFA chief of not coming to his support when he was expelled from U.S. World Cup finals earlier this year after failing a drugs test.

## Georgia humiliate Wales in European qualifier

LONDON (AP) — Wales suffered the most humiliating defeat in its history Wednesday, losing 5-0 to its time entrant Georgia in qualifying for the 1996 European Championship.

The loss, coupled with a 2-2 defeat last month in another former Soviet Republic, Moldova, all but closed the door on Welsh hopes for qualifying for the finals. Though it's still early in the tournament, Wales must play four of its seven remaining games against top favorites Germany and Algeria.

The players and myself are ashamed," Wales manager Mike Smith said. "We should have done a lot better than that. How can I sum up a game like that? They were far better than us."

In numerical terms, it was Wales' biggest defeat since a 6-1 loss to France in 1953. Georgia, which is playing in the Europeans for the first time since gaining independence, scored its first goals and earned its first points in the competition. The team previously lost to Moldova and Bulgaria.

Although Smith could not call upon Manchester United Winger Ryan Giggs, who missed the game through injury, his strikeforce had another United star. Mark Hughes, as well as Liverpool's Ian Rush and Dan Saunders of Aston Villa, some of Europe's most feared strikers.

But it was the Welsh defense that was repeatedly torn apart by Georgia's swift forwards. Temoliz Ketsbaia netted twice, and other goals came from Georgi Kinkladze, Gocha Gogrichiani and Shota Arveladze in front of the joyous 25,000 fans at Dynamo Stadium in Tbilisi.

Also in Group 7, Germany opened its qualifying campaign with a 2-1 victory over Albania in front of a sellout crowd of 23,000 in Tirana. Strikers Juergen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten scored for Germany, which has never lost to the Balkan country in nine meetings.

Hysen Zmijani netted for Albania, and Ledio Pano nearly tied it in the dying seconds when his free kick hit the post, the Albanians have lost both their qualifying matches.

World Cup semifinalist Bulgaria moved into first place in the group, beating Moldova 4-1 on two goals from Barcelona forward Hristo Stoichkov.

A total of 36 teams were in action Wednesday in the eight qualifying groups. Defending champion Denmark visited Spain, while World Cup finalist Italy hosted Croatia in later headline matches. In an exhibition game, England hosted Nigeria at Wembley.

Poland 0, France 0; At Zabrze, Poland, France played to a scoreless draw for the third time in three qualifying matches.

Poland remained third in the group with four points in three matches.

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 ♦ 7 5  
 ♣ J 10 9 7 5 2

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 ♦ 9 8 6 2  
 ♣ A 8 6 4  
 ♦ A Q 5  
 ♣ 10 4  
 ♠ K 8 3

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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Tel.: 625155
<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE</b>
The film which won seven Oscars <b>IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	Eric Roberts & Jeff Fahey in <b>FREESALL</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	The academy awards film <b>THE PIANO</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Presents <b>"Water is a Gift of Life"</b> A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. <b>The Immigrant</b>	Announces a temporary suspension of the performance <b>Qirbeh Makhzouga "Punctured Bag"</b> We will announce the resumption of the play in its new form later on.	Presents: <b>The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam</b> Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.



## Big U.N. majority for Palestinian self-determination

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Israel cast the only negative vote on Thursday when a U.N. committee reaffirmed, by an overwhelming majority, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The vote in the General Assembly's social, humanitarian and cultural committee was 124 to two, with 27 abstentions.

Russia which, together with the United States, is a sponsor of Middle East peace negotiations, was among those countries abstaining.

The resolution now goes to the assembly plenary, where it is certain to be endorsed.

In addition to reaffirming the Palestinians' right to self-determination, it expresses the hope that they might soon exercise this right in the current peace process. It also urges all states and U.N. agencies to continue to extend their support to the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

The U.N. representative, after listing the progress made so far in the Middle East peace talks, said the resolution could only be understood as "an effort to shape the outcome of these negotiations and in so doing, it can undermine their very basis."

The role of the international community was "not to interject itself into controversy by siding with one side's position or the other's or to prejudice the outcome of the negotiations," he said.

Israel's envoy told the committee the resolution was intended to predetermine the outcome of permanent status talks between Israel and the Palestinians. These are due to begin no later than the

start of the third year of a five-year transitional period which began with Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area earlier this year.

He said this contradicted obligations undertaken by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a declaration of principles signed with Israel in September 1993, as well as the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions.

The PLO's observer said those who opposed the right of self-determination for the Palestinians "would in practice be opposing history, law, the United Nations Charter and international law."

Genuine support for the peace process necessarily demanded that the Palestinian people be supported in exercising their right to self-determination, because otherwise there could be no just and lasting peace in the Middle East, he said.

Germany, speaking on behalf of the 12-nation European Union as well as Austria, Finland and Sweden, which all voted for the resolution, said the exercise of the right of self-determination was an ongoing process and could be implemented in a variety of ways.

It was also the European Union's long-standing position that reaffirmation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination went hand in hand with reaffirmation of the right of all countries in the region, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and internationally recognised borders. The EU welcomed the fact that both these elements were reflected in the amended version of the resolution that was adopted.

## Hurricane Gordon whips N. Carolina

OCRACOE, North Carolina (AFP) — Hurricane Gordon, wheeling toward the U.S. mainland, lashed the barrier islands off North Carolina with fierce winds, blowing seaside cottages off their pilings, authorities said.

Meteorologists upgraded Gordon to a hurricane Thursday, after the storm that left a trail of death and destruction in the Caribbean and Florida strengthened in the Atlantic.

In Haiti, the toll from Gordon continued to climb with the number of people reported killed rising to 759 Friday. At least 50 people were missing there.

Gordon also caused the deaths of nine more people in Cuba, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and left six dead in Florida.

The storm was nearly stationary at latitude 33.2 north, longitude 76.0 west, placing it about 140 kilometres off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, at around 1:00 p.m. (1800 GMT), according to the National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, Florida.

The centre reported Gordon had maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometres per hour, just above hurricane force.

"It is expected to drift erratically over the next 24 hours" and weaken, said hurricane centre spokesman Frank Lepore.

Officials have posted hurricane warnings from the Virginia-North Carolina border stretching 210 kilometres south to Bogue Inlet.

"We didn't expect it to strengthen as much as it did," said Bob Sheets, director of the centre, "It's just been a complex system," he added.

In Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, cottages perched on pilings were hurled into the sea.

Coastal residents, who thought they were out of harm's way, were surprised to find the storm was arching back toward the mainland.

"It's a total surprise," said Bob Florez, "because this morning it wasn't here and now it's here."

Gordon began off the Nicaraguan coast Nov. 8 and zig-zagged over the Caribbean to Haiti where it unleashed deadly flooding.

After sweeping over Jamaica and Cuba, Gordon crossed southern Florida spawning numerous tornadoes, flooding thousands of acres of fruit and vegetables, and killing six people.

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles declared a state of emergency for the southern and central part of the state.

adding that it "complicates the task of the Europeans."

Mr. Major echoed the concern, although stopped short of open criticism of Washington over the move.

"We regret that our American allies have acted unilaterally, and without giving much concern for their allies on the ground," he said, reporting discussions between Mr. Major and French President Francois Mitterrand.

"We must convince the Americans not to continue down this path," he said.



CLASHES IN GAZA: Muslim fundamentalists mourn one of their dead carried on a stretcher after being shot by Palestinian police during heavy clashes in Gaza City. Last reports give one policeman and 12 demonstrators dead and at least 200 people injured (see page one (AFP photo))

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mubarak warns Europe on new threat

LONDON (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has warned Europe it could face a new wave of Middle East terrorism if it does not support the Palestinians. "My fear is that there will soon be an explosion in Gaza, more dangerous than Afghanistan," Mr. Mubarak told the Times newspaper in an interview published Friday prior to his European tour beginning Sunday. Mr. Mubarak said such unrest could destabilise the whole Middle East and spill over into Europe, saying "it is very easy to go from here to Europe especially as you have cells of (Muslim) fundamentalists all over Europe now. 'I blame the donors,' he added, for donor countries had only paid up a tiny proportion of the \$2.24 billion of aid pledged to the Palestinian authority headed by Yasser Arafat. The donors "should hurry up," Mr. Mubarak added. "In Gaza there are no jobs, no infrastructure, no healthcare. If this goes on, nobody on earth could persuade the people there to stay calm," he warned. "An explosion would encourage many fundamentalists to go there and fight alongside the Palestinians. I hope people realise the danger."

### Israeli right ahead in polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's right-wing opposition would win elections if they were held today, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The Yediot Aharonot newspaper found that the Likud party would win 41 seats in the 120-member house compared with the 32 seats it now holds. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party would lose four seats and drop to 40 seats. His left-wing coalition partner Meretz would win nine seats, three fewer than in the 1992 elections. That would lead to a nationalist-religious coalition with the backing of four or five minor parties. However, Mr. Rabin remained more popular than Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, winning 46 per cent support against 42 per cent for his main rival. And in the next elections, scheduled for Nov. 1996, the prime minister is due to be elected directly for the first time. Parliament has in the past voted for the premier. Some 49 per cent of Israelis favoured dismantling Jewish settlements in the occupied territories while 46 per cent were against while five per cent voiced no view. The Dahaf Institute interviewed 500 Israelis on Tuesday for the survey which had an error margin of four per cent.

### Greenpeace to analyse 'toxic waste' in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — Experts from the environmental group Greenpeace have taken samples from dozens of barrels of toxic waste to determine their origin, spokesman Fuad Hamdan said on Friday. The experts who arrived Tuesday in Lebanon aboard the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior wore gas masks and special suits to open barrels, stored in two large containers at Beirut port, and take the samples, he said. Dozens of barrels of hazardous industrial waste were found in mountainous areas northeast of Beirut earlier this year, prompting a debate between the authorities and non-government organisations (NGOs) over their origin. "The way the barrels are stored is highly inadequate because organic vapours are leaking out of the containers," said Greenpeace scientist Ruth Stringer. "The vapours are strong irritants and the waste would be dangerous if handled without extreme care," she added. Lebanese Environment Minister Samir Moqbel has said the barrels contain "ethyl acetate and methyl acetate" — substances used to produce plastics.

### Algeria to pay compensation for Italians

ROME (AFP) — Algeria has agreed to pay 150 million lira (\$600,000) in compensation to the families of seven Italian sailors murdered in Algeria last July, the government gazette said on Friday. The sailors were killed by a group of Algerians on board the moored Italian vessel, the Lucina, in the port of Djendjen. A member of the 15-strong gang who was arrested later said the sailors' throats were slit after binding their hands and feet.

### 14 killed in Kurdish rebel attack

ANKARA (AFP) — Fourteen people were killed in an attack by Kurdish rebels on the village of Col in the southeastern Turkish province of Siirt and in an ensuing clash between rebels and Turkish troops, the Anatolia news agency reported Friday. A group of "terrorists" — the official term to describe militants of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) — shot dead ten villagers and kidnapped two others in Thursday night's attack, Anatolia said. Three Kurdish militants and a soldier were killed in the clash around the village of Palamut which followed the attack, Anatolia said.

### Israel seeks boosted Egypt trade

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel has asked Egypt to help end the double taxation of goods passing through their border in a move to boost trade, an Egyptian official said Friday. Fakhreddine Abou Ezz, deputy economic minister, told journalists here after talks in Tel Aviv that the Israelis proposed an agreement which will prohibit the double taxation of goods crossing at Rafah, which lies on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Under the proposal each country would be assigned a certain number of goods to tax at the border, rather than having all of them taxed on both sides, Mr. Abou Ezz said. He also said the Israelis submitted a proposal "for the guarantee of investments" between the two countries, without elaborating.

## Somali land insurrection crushed, Egal says

NAIROBI (Agencies) —

Troops loyal to the government of the self-proclaimed Somaliland republic have crushed an insurrection in the capital Hargeisa, the region's "president," Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, said Friday.

Mr. Egal told AFP by telephone that the city was now "very calm" and denied reports that he had fled the capital of the region in the north of Somalia to the coastal town of Berbera.

Mr. Egal said at least 60 to 70 civilians were believed killed in the attacks since Tuesday, while the death toll for government forces was put at eight, with 20 wounded.

He said prisoners had been taken but did not give a casualty toll for the rebels.

Mr. Egal said his troops were preparing to "flush out" armed rebels still hiding in Hargeisa on Saturday or Sunday, describing them as "young boys" who behaved like bandits.

He denied a U.N. report that they were supporters of the founder of the breakaway republic in former British Somaliland, Abdurrahman Ahmad Ali, "Tur," who was ousted in February.

U.N. spokesman George Bennett on Thursday told AFP that Hargeisa came under attack Tuesday by forces loyal to Mr. Tur, and quoted rebel sources as saying the president had left the town.

Speaking from the Somali capital Mogadishu, Mr. Bennett said Mr. Tur's men claimed to control Hargeisa and that Mr. Egal had fled to his stronghold of Berbera, some 300 kilometres to the northeast on the Gulf of Aden.

But Mr. Egal said the rebels were "young boys" out to exact revenge on his government for ordering troops to dislodge them from Hargeisa airport where they wanted to continue "their very lucrative activities," levying taxes on arriving and departing flights.

Somaliland declared itself independent in 1991 after the fall of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, as the rest of Somalia plunged into clan strife and mass starvation, leading to large-scale intervention by the United States and then the United Nations.

U.N. peacekeepers are all due to pull out by the end of next March. Rival clan leaders have failed to agree on forming an interim government, and Mr. Egal's regime has declared it will have nothing to do with the rest of the country, a former Italian-ruled territory.

The battle of the past few days is the first heavy fighting in Somaliland in more than a year and comes as the United Nations prepares to withdraw its 16,500 peacekeepers from southern Somalia by March 31.

The country's major warlords have been engaged for months in what U.N. spokesman Bennett on Thursday called a "destructive rivalry" to gain power following the U.N. withdrawal.

Sources reached by telephone in Hargeisa on Thursday spoke of heavy fighting near the central police station and the city's major open-air market.

## Majali begins Qatar visit today

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday starts an official visit to Qatar at the invitation of Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa, the Qatari crown prince and defence minister.

An official announcement issued Friday said that Dr. Majali would spend several days in Qatar during which he would meet with the country's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani and other officials.

Dr. Majali's visit to Qatar "is an embodiment of brotherly relations between Jordan and Qatar and a manifestation on the part of the two countries to enhance and bolster ties between the two peoples," the statement said.

It said that the prime minister's talks would aim at further bolstering these relations and would also cover the peace process.

The prime minister is also expected to meet with Jordanians living in Qatar, the statement noted, adding that Dr. Majali will be accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, director of his office Aktham Qousous and Rafe' Shahin, his press advisor.

Dr. Majali was quoted on Thursday as saying that his visit to Qatar was aimed at enhancing Qatari-Jordanian cooperation in all fields.

Speaking during a visit to the Audit Bureau, Dr. Majali said that Jordan was keen on

restoring its strong ties with Arab states and reestablishing Arab solidarity.

On the eve of his visit to Qatar, Dr. Majali received in his office the Qatari minister of information and culture, Dr. Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari and an accompanying delegation.

He told the visiting Qatari official that Jordan was seeking to safeguard common interest Arab interests and strengthen ties with all Gulf countries.

He praised Qatar's active participation in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process and its backing for Jordan's peace efforts.

Now that a peace treaty with Israel, the Kingdom is dedicating its efforts towards establishing a comprehensive peace in the region, the prime minister said.

Dr. Kuwari expressed Qatar's support for the treaty, and said that it would give impetus to the achievement of comprehensive peace on all tracks.

Speaking in the presence of Information Minister Jawad Anani, Dr. Kuwari outlined his country's efforts to maintain cooperation with Jordan in information.

Dr. Kuwari noted that Qatar and Jordan had signed an agreement on cooperation in information fields in 1980 and said it was time for the two sides to upgrade the pact.

## Israel builds roads ahead of redeployment

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has begun to build a major road network in the West Bank to enable settlers to avoid Palestinian areas after the army's redeployment, officials said Friday.

A north-south highway will bypass the Palestinian towns of Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron.

Construction is already well underway between Bethlehem and Hebron including a 900-metre long tunnel to link settlement in the Gush Etzion block directly with occupied Jerusalem.

A Jericho bypass is also under construction to avoid the self-rule enclave.

Another 320 kilometres of roads are planned at a cost of some \$300 million to allow for the pullout of Palestinian population centres in line with the Palestinian autonomy agreement.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still has to give a green light for the project, housing ministry officials said.

Some 120,000 Israelis are scattered across the West Bank in about 120 settlements.

A settler spokesman Pinhas Wallerstein voiced strong support for the project which he said would boost security for Israelis and enable the development of their colonies.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned Thursday that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) operating in the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank could be stripped of its powers if it failed to establish order.

"Israel expects the Palestinian Authority to take the situation in hand," Mr. Peres told Israel radio. "If the Palestinians do not understand that, the powers that they exercise could be taken away from them."

He did not elaborate. But his remarks followed

recent attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians both in the Gaza Strip and in Israel itself. Israeli authorities have demanded that Palestinian police crack down on militant groups that have claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Mr. Peres also sharply rebuked the head of the PNA, Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, following a speech Tuesday in which Mr. Arafat — apparently inadvertently — referred to "the Israeli enemy" (see page 2).

"Recent statements by Yasser Arafat give the impression that he is no longer in control of what he says and do damage to the peace process," Mr. Peres said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, before leaving for the United States on Wednesday, also took Mr. Arafat to task.

"The statements attributed to Arafat are absolutely contrary to the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of (peace) principles," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying in the newspaper Yediot Aharonot.

General Dany Rotschild, Israeli coordinator for the occupied territories, meanwhile threatened to hold up payments for Palestinian police in a gesture aimed at "punishing violations" of the PLO-Israeli accord on Palestinian autonomy.

4,500 more permits

The Israeli military authorities will next week deliver another 4,500 permits to Palestinians, taking the total number allowed in to 28,500, a spokeswoman said Friday.

The permits will be for agricultural workers, divided equally between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, said Captain Hanneh Jeshurun.

A total of 8,500 permits are for agricultural workers and the rest for construction and industry.

## Blind cleric rushed to hospital from prison

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations and other landmarks, was rushed to a hospital on Thursday suffering from pneumonia, an aide to the cleric said.

The U.S. Marshals Service, which accompanied him to the hospital, said his condition was "not life threatening."

A spokesman for the service said the cleric is "alert, talking and cooperating with the medical staff."

However, Ahmad Sattar, the sheikh's paralegal, described the situation as more serious. "He's in very bad shape," Mr. Sattar said.

Mr. Sattar said he had spoken with Sheikh Abdul Rahman on Wednesday. "He really couldn't talk. His breathing was very heavy. He was coughing and spitting up blood and running a high fever."

The cleric was removed

from his two-room cell at the federal metropolitan correctional centre in Manhattan at about 5:30 a.m. on Thursday and taken to a hospital, he said.

"MCC medical staff had described Dr. Abdul Rahman as possibly having pneumonia," the Marshals Service said in a statement.

"He is currently being examined and treated in a hospital setting where his condition is described as not life threatening."

Mr. Sattar said Sheikh Abdul Rahman was hesitant to go to the hospital because he wanted to continue to prepare for the Nov. 28 start of jury selection for his trial in U.S. district court in Manhattan.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman and 11 others are accused of conspiring to bomb New York landmarks, including the United Nations headquarters.

## COLUMN

### Scientists claim discovery of Element 110

BERLIN (AP) — Scientists in Germany have claimed discovery of a new element, with atomic number 110, the heaviest ever produced. The presence of the element was proved at 4:39 p.m. on Nov. 9 after days of bombarding billions of lead atoms with billions of nickel atoms in the Unilac accelerator at the heavy ion research centre at Darmstadt in southern Germany, the centre said late Thursday. The international group of scientists that carried out the research was led by Peter Armbruster, a German physicist who is credited with leading the team that produced three other heavy elements at the centre between 1981 and 1984. The centre said a dozen scientists from research centres in Russia, Slovakia and Finland collaborated in discovering the new element, which does not yet have a name. The heaviest element occurring in nature is uranium, with Atomic Number 92. Element 110 existed for only a fraction of a thousandth of a second. But its presence was proved when the apparatus detected an alpha particle, or helium nucleus, that was emitted as the element decayed, the centre said.

### Scientist extracts DNA from ancient dinosaur bone

WASHINGTON (R) — A Utah researcher has extracted DNA from an 80-million-year-old dinosaur bone and reconstructed portions of the creature's genetic sequence — a scientific first straight out of the movies. But Brigham Young University scientist Scott Woodward dismisses notions his finding will open the way for the cloning of dinosaurs, the plot of the novel and megablockbuster film Jurassic Park. "I loved the book and I loved the movie. In fact, I just talked to my kids in Jerusalem and they're watching the movie right now," Dr. Woodward said. "We're light years away from anything that might have occurred in Jurassic Park. I'm still looking forward to the transporter in Star Trek," he said. His findings are published in the Nov. 18 edition of Science magazine. Dr. Woodward said the DNA, obtained from bones preserved in a Utah coal mine, was unique and did not appear to be closely related to any modern animals. Theories differ on whether dinosaurs were more closely related to birds or reptiles. "I believe that there could be dinosaur groups that fit into both categories or even a category of neither," he said. DNA, found in cells, is the genetic code that guides the development and growth of plants and animals. The DNA specimen recovered is not the oldest on record. Researchers have previously recovered 125-million-year-old DNA from a weevil preserved in amber. It was not possible to identify the species of dinosaur from the bones, one of which appeared to be a section of a rib. The bones possibly came from two different animals, the article said.

### TV presenter raps Britain on cot deaths

LONDON (R) — A British television presenter, whose own son was a "cot death" victim, accused the government of linking the deaths to toxic chemical in fireproof mattresses. A report on Independent Television News linked cot death with antimony and other chemicals used to fire-proof mattresses. It says that of 43 victims of cot death (sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS), more than one-half had raised levels of antimony in their bodies. Anne Diamond, who fronted the government's campaign against cot death after her son died three years ago, discovered that her baby had traces of the toxic chemical in his body. Findings linking toxic chemicals to cot deaths were presented to the government several years ago but officials dismissed it. "Given the fact that they (the government) have been negligent for three years and hundreds of babies might have died of this they should do something about this and very fast," she told Independent Television News.